CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI

G7 attendance lifts India's role as key voice of Global South

P8

India, Saudi Arabia strengthen trade and investment ties

P9

Centre declares Delhi blast a 'heinous terror act'

The key security meeting was chaired by PM Modi and attended by Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, among others

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday passed a resolution condemning the 'heinous terror incident' in Delhi near Red Fort on November 10, and observes two-minute silence as mark of respect to those who lost their lives.

Union Cabinet also expressed profound grief over loss of lives.

"The country has witnessed a heinous terrorist incident perpetrated by anti-national forces through a car explosion near Red Fort on 10th November. The Cabinet directs that the investigation into the incident be pursued with utmost urgency and professionalism, so that the perpetrators, their collaborators and their sponsors are identified and brought to justice without delay," said Ashwini Vaishnaw.

At least 13 people died after a high-intensity blast ripped through a slow-moving Hyundai car outside Delhi's Red Fort area. Unequivocally condemning the dastardly and cowardly act that has led to the loss of innocent lives, the Cabinet reiterated India's unwavering commitment to a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The Cabinet also appreciated timely and coordinated response of the authorities, security agencies, and citizens who acted with courage and compassion in the face of adversity.

Recording its appreciation for the statements of solidarity and support from many Governments around the world, the Cabinet noted that the government continues to monitored the situation.

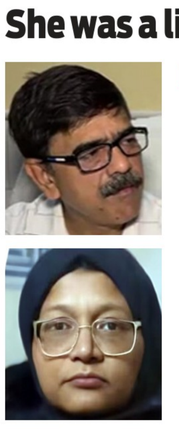
FSL collects DNA samples of suspect Umar's mother

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) has collected the DNA samples of the mother of the suspect, Dr Umar Un Nabi, who was allegedly driving the Hyundai i-20 car in which the blast occurred near the Red Fort on November 10, killing eight people and injuring several others, said sources on Wednesday. Her samples have been sent to the AIIMS forensic laboratory for further investigation, the sources added. According to Delhi Police sources, suspect Umar was also seen with the i20 on the Mumbai Expressway and the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) expressway, after which he was heading towards Delhi.

NIA forms special probe team

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has constituted a "dedicated and comprehensive" investigation team to probe the recent Delhi car blast incident — a terrorist attack executed by a Jaish-e-Mohammad module unearthed by Indian agencies, top sources said. The team will function under the supervision of senior officers of the rank of Superintendent of Police and above, ensuring a coordinated and in-depth probe into the case. The move comes a day after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) formally handed over the investigation to the NIA.

She was a liberal: ex-husband of Dr Shaheen



LUCKNOW: Lucknow-based doctor Shaheen Saeed, who was arrested in connection with a massive explosives haul in Faridabad hours before the bomb blast near Red Fort, held liberal views and wasn't particularly religious, her former husband Dr Hayat Zafar has said. Shaheen also wanted the family, which includes two children, to settle in Australia or Europe before the couple separated in 2012, he added. According to investigators, Shaheen hails from Daliganj in Lucknow.

Second car of blast suspect Nabi seized

The Faridabad Police on Wednesday seized a red Ford EcoSport car, which is suspected to be linked to Dr Umar Nabi, the prime suspect behind the Red Fort explosion on Monday. Earlier in the day, the Delhi Police had issued an alert for the car. Along with police, a forensic science laboratory team also reached the spot in Haryana's Khandawali village for investigation. A senior Faridabad Police official said, "The Faridabad Police rounded up a red EcoSport vehicle, suspected in the Delhi blast case, with registration number DL 10 CK 0458. It was found parked near Khandawali village.

PM meets blast victims on return from Bhutan

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday afternoon landed in New Delhi after concluding his official visit to Bhutan and headed straight to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital to meet survivours of Monday's car blast near the Red Fort.

According to an official statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), "Upon landing from Bhutan, PM Modi went straight to LNJP Hospital to meet those injured in the Delhi blast. He interacted with the injured, wished them a speedy recovery, and was briefed by doctors and officials on their condition".

The Prime Minister was also updated by senior security and investigation officials on the latest findings and progress in the case.

> **Went to LNJP Hospital and met those injured during the blast in Delhi. Praying for everyone's quick recovery. Those behind the conspiracy will be brought to justice!.**
> —Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Al-Falah University distances itself from arrested doctors

CHANDIGARH

Al-Falah University, located at Dhauj village in Faridabad district of Haryana, has issued an official statement distancing itself from the doctors arrested in the Delhi blast case. The university has said it is extending full cooperation to the investigating authorities.

A statement issued by the university Vice-Chancellor Professor (Dr) Bhupinder Kaur Anand said that the university has no connection with the said persons apart from them working in their official capacities at the university.

"We are deeply saddened and anguished by the unfortunate developments that took place and condemn the

same. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the innocent people affected by these distressing events. We have also learnt that two of our doctors have been detained by the investigating agencies. We wish to make it clear that the university has no connection with the said persons apart from them working in official capacities with the university."

CM: I established Kaginele Peetha as voice of all exploited communities

BENGALURU

"I established the Kaginele Peetha as the voice of all exploited communities," said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

"I have been against the Sanatanvadi RSS from the beginning, against the caste system and stupidity," he said after laying the foundation stone of the new building of the Pradesh Kuruba Sangha and the student hostel in Gandhinagar.

"My clear intention was that the children of the Kuruba community should have education and a hostel in the Sangh building. The ideology that divided the society and created the caste system is that of the RSS. This ideology is against the working class and classes. That is why I have been opposing the RSS from the beginning. For this reason, I had advocated that the Kaginele Peetha should become the Peetha of all the exploited communities," he said.

The demand and insistence of the Prajadhipok Kuruba Sangh for vacating this same hundred-year-old building and constructing a new building had been there for many years. Now, everyone has been convinced, the old building has been demolished and the foundation stone of the new building has been laid. He said that the new building will be constructed in 18 months without compromising on quality.

Those who studied in the hostel in the old building have become good officers. They have also become judges. I became an MLA in 1983 and a minister in 1984. When I was the Transport Minister, I celebrated the 500th birth anniversary of Kanakadasa in 1988. At this time, I decided that the society needed a Guru Peetha, he added.

BJP to contest Punjab assembly polls alone: Bittu

CHANDIGARH

With fifteen months left for the assembly elections in Punjab, Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries Ravneet Singh Bittu ruled out any possibility of an alliance between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), asserting that the BJP will contest all seats alone.

Talking to the media here on Wednesday, Bittu said the party is confident of its growing strength in Punjab and will go solo in the electoral battle. "The BJP will not form any alliance with the Akali Dal. We will contest the 2027 assembly polls on our own," he declared.

He also commented on the ongoing student protests at Panjab University over the Senate elections, stating that the Centre has accepted nearly all student demands except for the announcement of the polls.

Kannada soil is garden of peace for all races: KVP

BENGALURU

The value of Kannada soil is that it is a garden of peace for all races, said Chief Minister's Media Advisor KV Prabhakar.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Kannada Rajyotsava organized by the Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation and KMF Kalavedike.

"Karnataka is unified on the basis of social justice. The hope for the development of the people of all Kannada-speaking areas and the prosperity of oppressed communities was the main hope behind the rise of Karnataka state. This is how the idea of 'Kuvempu's Garden of Peace for All Races' was formed," he said.

He said that Kuvempu's words 'Garden of Peace for All Races' are a value of Kannada culture, and we need to look at how successful we have been in achieving it. He said that the real hope for the rise of Karnataka state was not just to unite geographical boundaries, but rather the dream of Kannada culture and socio-economic equality of Kannadigas.

'G20 summit to proceed despite US boycott'

JOHANNESBURG

President Cyril Ramaphosa said Wednesday the United States boycott of the G20 summit in South Africa later this month would not prevent the meeting of the world's leading economies from going ahead.

Pretoria and Washington have clashed over a range of policy issues, including South Africa's summit agenda, culminating in President Donald Trump announcing at the weekend that no US official will attend the Johannesburg gathering.

"We will take fundamental decisions and their absence is their loss," Ramaphosa told reporters in the coastal city of Cape Town.

"In many ways, the United States is also giving up the very important role that they should be playing as the biggest economy in the world," he added.

Set for November 22–23, the summit marks the first time the G20 will convene on African soil.

South Africa -- current G20 chair -- wants to use its presidency to champion Global South priorities, including boosting climate resilience and tackling debt in developing countries, before handing the baton to the United States next year. The US has labelled South Africa's theme of "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability" as "anti-American".

"They've chosen to boycott, and boycotting never achieves anything of great impact, because decisions will be taken that will move the various issues ahead,"

QUICK READ

2 JJMP commanders surrender in Jh'khand

RANCHI

Two commanders belonging to the banned Maoist outfit Jharkhand Jan Mukti Parishad (JJMP) surrendered before Jharkhand police on Wednesday, under the government's rehabilitation policy -- 'Nai Disha.' Surrendered Maoists include sub-zonal commander Brajesh Yadav alias Rakesh and area commander Awadhesh Lohara.

'You're a threat to young girls': SC to Assam Prof

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday came down heavily on a professor at a college in Assam arrested for making anti-India and obscene social media posts, and called him "a threat to young girls" and a "pervert" who should not be allowed to enter the educational institution.

'A SERIOUS CONCERN'

Indian envoy summoned over Hasina's media meet

DHAKA

Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday summoned India's deputy high commissioner in Dhaka and expressed "serious concern" over deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's interaction with mainstream Indian media.

Hasina, 78, faces multiple cases in Bangladesh after being ousted in August last year following nationwide violent protests led by students. She fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year and is currently residing in India. Hasina's supporters say the charges against her are politically motivated.

"The foreign ministry today summoned Indian Deputy High Commissioner Pawan Badhe to formally convey Bangladesh's serious concern over the Indian government allowing absconding premier Sheikh Hasina to interact with the mainstream Indian media," the state-run BSS news agency reported, quoting a high-level unnamed diplomatic source. In the last few days, Hasina has given interviews to some prominent international and Indian media outlets.

The Indian diplomat was asked to convey to New Delhi Bangladesh's request to immediately discontinue Hasina's access to the media, the news agency said. The foreign ministry reportedly conveyed that harbouring such a "fugitive currently under trial for committing crimes against humanity and granting her a platform to spew hatred and advocate terrorist acts inside Bangladesh are unhelpful to fostering a constructive bilateral relationship between the two countries," it added.

QUICK READ

Sri Rama Nama Digvijaya Ratha Reaches Vitla

Vitala

The Sri Ram Nama Digvijaya Ratha, part of the 500th anniversary celebrations of Sri Sansthan Gokarna Partagali Jeevottama Math, arrived at Vitla Hanumagiri Sri Rama Mandira on its journey from Badrinath Ashram to Partagali Jeevottama Math. The rath, which began its journey on October 18, 2025, will reach Partagali Jeevottama Math on November 26, 2025, covering 120 japa centers and blessing devotees along the way. The rath was welcomed by the Vitla GSB Samaja at Navilu Basadi and taken in a procession to the Sri Ram Mandir. It then proceeded to Mogarnadu Vaidehikanta Japa Kendra, spreading the message of Sri Rama Nama.

Preparations for PM Modi's Gita Parayana Event in Full Swing

Udupi

A meeting of prominent members of the community was held at the Kanaka Mantapa of Krishna Math to discuss the arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Gita Parayana function on November 28. The meeting was attended by representatives from various social organizations and societies. The function is part of the 4th Paryaya of Sri Sugunendra Tirtha Swamiji of Puthige Math. The organizers assured that all arrangements are being made to ensure a grand success of the event. The meeting was addressed by Nagaraja Acharya, Divan of Puthige Math, and Suprasad Shetty, Convener of the Gita Utsav.

Gold Chain Goes Missing on KSRTC Bus in Kumble

Kasaragod

A three-year-old girl's gold chain weighing about 4 grams went missing while she was traveling with her mother on a KSRTC bus from Kumble to Kasaragod on Tuesday evening. The child's mother, Ashwini, wife of Dayananda Acharya, noticed the missing chain during the journey and informed the bus conductor. A search was conducted, but only a broken link of the chain was found. The incident has been reported to the Kumble police station, and authorities are appealing to anyone who may have found the gold chain to come forward and contact the police.

Scooter Rider Seriously Injured in Car Collision near Polya

Puttur

A scooter rider was seriously injured when his Activa scooter was hit by a car near Polya, close to Kabaka on the Mani-Mysuru National Highway. The injured, Shashikumar (36), son of Krishnappa Naik, was returning home from work when the accident occurred. The Hyundai car, driven by Taufiq, a resident of Kabaka, allegedly hit Shashikumar's scooter from behind, throwing him onto the road. Shashikumar, who works at a spice powder agency, sustained serious injuries and has been admitted to a private hospital in Puttur. The Puttur Traffic Police have registered a case in connection with the incident.

Dy Commissioner Inspects Koderi Port, Orders Speedy Completion

The Koderi minor port sustains the livelihood of over 800 traditional fishing families, with nearly 3,000 to 4,000 people involved in daily fishing activities

BYNDOOR

Deputy Commissioner Swarupa T.K. visited the Koderi minor port in Byndoor taluk, reviewing the ongoing development works and hearing the grievances of traditional boat fishermen.

The Koderi minor port is a vital source of livelihood for over 800 traditional boat fishermen and their families, with around 3,000-4,000 people engaged in fishing activities daily. The port's inadequate infrastructure has been a long-standing issue, despite the allocation of ₹70 crores for its development.

The fishermen submitted a memorandum to the DC, highlighting the need for a proper road connection, streetlights, and a concrete road from Karkikala to the port. They also requested the

completion of the breakwater construction and the provision of drinking water facilities under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The DC was urged to address the issue of inadequate jetty facilities, which has led to difficulties in unloading fish and has resulted in accidents. The fishermen requested the construction of a 100-meter-long jetty on either side of the existing one and the repair of the damaged breakwater stones.

The DC assured the fishermen of her support and directed the concerned officials to expedite the completion of the ongoing works. The visit was attended by Assistant Director of Fisheries B.A. Yakkaranala, Deputy Director of Fisheries Sanjeev Arakery, Tahsildar Ramachandrappa, and other officials.

The fishermen's representatives, including President of the Uppunda Rani Bale Fishermen's Cooperative Society Venkataramana Kharvi and President of the Byndoor Zone Nadodoni Fishermen's Association Nagesh Kharvi, were present during the visit.

The Koderi minor port has been plagued by inadequate infrastructure and delayed development works, affecting the livelihoods of thousands of fishermen and their families. The DC's visit is expected to bring some relief to the community, with the authorities promising to address their long-standing grievances.

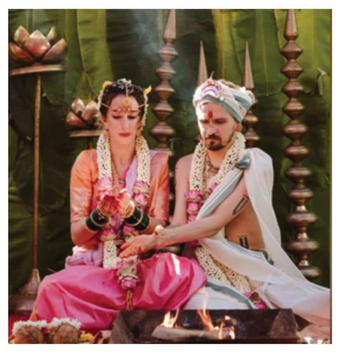
Foreign Couple Marries at Kolluru Temple in Hindu Tradition

KOLLUR

In a beautiful display of cultural exchange, a foreign couple, Narottam Das and Jahnavi from France, chose the serene surroundings of Kolluru Temple to celebrate their union in a traditional Hindu wedding ceremony. The couple, who have been devotees of Lord Krishna for several years, had been traveling across India, exploring various spiritual centers and immersing themselves in the country's rich cultural heritage.

Their paths crossed, and love blossomed, leading them to decide on a Hindu wedding. Kolluru Temple, a revered shrine in the region, was their chosen destination for this momentous occasion. The couple's wedding ceremony was conducted in accordance with traditional Hindu rites and rituals, amidst the tranquil ambiance of the temple's picturesque surroundings.

The couple had been residents of Brindavan, where they were engaged in scriptural studies and Odissi dance. Their connection to India



deepened further as they began visiting the Kolluru Abhaya Ayurveda Treatment Center for Panchakarma treatment, drawn by their faith in Ayurveda. Dr. Srikant, the center's director, played a pivotal role in facilitating their wedding plans, ensuring that the ceremony adhered to traditional Indian customs.

The wedding ceremony was a simple yet elegant affair, with the couple exchanging vows in the presence of deities, Brahmins, and the sacred fire. The event was followed by a cultural program and a reception, where guests savored local delicacies. The couple's love story is a testament to the power of cultural exchange and the universal language of love.

Thieves Strike Bus Passenger, Steal 10kg Silver Bars and Rs 3 Lakh Cash

KUNDAPUR

A brazen theft occurred on a bus travelling from Bengaluru to Kundapura, with thieves making off with 10 kg of silver bars and Rs 3 lakh in cash. The incident took place when the victim, N. Krishnamoorthy Shetty (54), and his wife boarded the Airavat bus at Majestic bus station in Bengaluru.

Shetty had purchased two packets of 10 kg silver bars from Vardhaman Jewellers in Bengaluru and placed one packet in a bag under his seat, while the other packet and Rs 3 lakh in cash were kept in a separate bag in the luggage compartment above his seat. When Shetty checked his bag the next morning, he found that it had been tampered with, and the silver bars and cash were missing.

The theft is estimated to have resulted in a loss of approximately Rs 18,39,655. The Kundapura police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

The victim has appealed to the authorities to track down the thieves and recover the stolen items. The incident has caused concern among passengers, highlighting the need for increased vigilance and security measures on public transport.

Sardar Patel's Contribution to United India Unparalleled: MP Kota Srinivas Poojary

UDUPI

MP Kota Srinivas Poojary, hailed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as the 'Iron Man of India', who unified the country's fragmented princely states through his courageous and strong leadership.

Poojary was speaking at a function organized to commemorate Patel's 150th birth anniversary, held at the Martyrs' Memorial in Ajjarkad. The event was part of the 'Ekta Nadi' program, organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, District Administration, and other organizations.

Poojary said Patel envisioned India's tricolor flag flying high in every corner of the country, including Kashmir. He credited the Narendra Modi-led central government for realizing Patel's dream. He emphasized that Patel's ideals of unity, integrity, and progress continue to inspire the nation, transcending caste, class, and language barriers.

The MP also highlighted the annual 'Ekta Run' event, aimed at raising awareness about Patel's vision of a united India.

The function was attended by Additional District Commissioner Abid Gadhyal, MLAs Kiran Kumar Kodgi and Gurume Suresh Shetty, and Red Cross Society State President Basrur Rajiv Shetty.

Earlier, Poojary and District Commissioner Swarupa T.K. flagged off the district-level 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Ekta Nadi' procession from the Board High School grounds. The procession culminated at Ajjarkad, with participants marching through the city's main streets, promoting unity and solidarity.

Historic Discovery: 5th Vikramaditya-era Hero Stone Unearthed in Yellapura

KARWAR

Archaeologists have discovered a hero stone (Veeragallu) dating back to the 5th Vikramaditya era in Kannadagal village, Yellapura taluk, Uttara Kannada district. The stone, found amidst Jain and Shaivite rock inscriptions, sheds new light on the region's rich history.

The hero stone features images and inscriptions detailing the bravery of soldiers who died in battle, including Bommana Nayak, Ballaladeva, Yellappa Nayak, and others. The stone is believed to be a symbol of victory, erected thousands of years ago.

Historian and Modi script expert Sangamesha Kalyani said, "The hero stones are in a dilapidated state, with many broken. They provide valuable insights into the region's history and the valor of its warriors."

The discovery has sparked excitement among locals, who are now calling for the preservation of the site and the construction of a separate temple for Bhuvaneshwari Devi, whose idol was found in the vicinity. The idol is currently housed in the Mavalli village goddess temple.

The find is a testament to the region's rich cultural heritage, and efforts are being made to protect and promote it.

RSS Working Against Unity of Nation, Says Manjunath Gilyar

UDUPI

The Karnataka Dalit Struggle Committee (Ambedkarite) Udupi district committee organized a protest rally against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in front of the Udupi district commissioner's office. Addressing the gathering, advocate Manjunath Gilyar, district coordinator of the committee, criticized the RSS for working against the principles of equality and unity.

Gilyar accused the RSS of spreading hatred and divisive politics, targeting minorities and marginalized communities. He alleged that the RSS had been working against the Constitution, reservation policies, and women's rights. "The RSS does not accept the national flag and national anthem, and its ideology is against the unity of the nation," Gilyar said.

He further criticized the RSS for remaining silent on issues like dalit rights, women's safety, and rape cases, while spreading false propaganda. "Their 100-year achievement is spreading lies and creating divisions among people," Gilyar said.

Gilyar also criticized the Congress party for allowing the RSS to grow and failing to ban it despite being in power. He urged people to unite against the RSS's divisive politics and work towards building a united and equitable society.

Crop Insurance Amount to be Credited to Farmers' Accounts within 20 Days: Ashok Rai

PUTTUR

The weather-based crop insurance amount will be credited directly to the accounts of farmers within the next 20 days, said Ashok Rai, MLA of Puttur.

Rai had a telephonic conversation with insurance company officials, following concerns raised by farmers about the delay in receiving the insurance amount. The amount was credited to farmers' accounts on November 4 last year, but this year, it has been delayed till November 11.

Rai assured farmers that there is no need to worry, as he has been assured by the insurance company officials that the amount will be credited within 20 days. "I have spoken to the insurance company officials, and they have explained the reason for the delay. The amount will be credited to the accounts of beneficiary farmers soon," Rai said.

The insurance amount is a joint contribution of the Karnataka state government (70%) and the central government (30%). Last year, the amount was credited in the first week of November, and Rai urged farmers not to worry about the delay this year.

Rai's assurance comes after hundreds of farmers approached him with complaints about the non-credit of the insurance amount. The delay had caused anxiety among farmers, who were awaiting the amount to compensate for crop losses.

Women Leaders Demand Justice for D'sthala Murder Victims

DHARMASTHALA

Women leaders in Dharmasthala are calling for a thorough investigation into the alleged murders and unnatural deaths in the village, under the slogan 'Kondavaru yaru?' (Who killed them?). They recently visited Kusumavathi, Soujanya's mother, at Pangala, seeking justice for the victims and protection for their families.

Movement leader Champa emphasized that their protest is aimed at securing justice for women who have suffered, without any political agenda. They are questioning the killings, rapes, and violence against women happening across the country and demanding a comprehensive inquiry into all unnatural deaths and missing person cases in Dharmasthala village.

Champa urged the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to continue its investigation, citing the Prajwal Revanna case as an example where the SIT gave hope to victims. She demanded that the SIT probe beyond the initial complaint and uncover the truth behind the deaths of Vedavalli, Padmalatha, Soujanya, and others.

The team, including Jyothi Anantha Subbarao, Shashikala Shetty, Geetha Suratkal, and others, has submitted a request to the Chief Minister and the State Women's Commission, seeking support for the affected families.

Konkan Railway Cracks Down on Ticketless Travel, Collects ₹12.81 Crore in Fines

UDUPI

The Konkan Railway has collected a whopping ₹12.81 crore in fines from ticketless and unauthorized passengers over the past six months, as part of a special campaign to curb ticketless travel. Between April and September 2025, officials conducted 5,493 special ticket inspection drives across its network, catching 1,82,781 passengers traveling without valid tickets or authorization.

The campaign has yielded impressive results, with the railway recovering ₹12.81 crore in fines, including ticket fares and penalties. In October alone, 920 additional inspections led to the detection of 42,645 ticketless or unauthorized passengers, from whom ₹2.40 crore in fines was recovered.

Railway authorities are urging passengers to purchase valid tickets before boarding to avoid inconvenience and penalties. "Ticket checking drives will be intensified across all Konkan Railway routes in the coming months," said Sunil B. Narkar, Public Relations Officer of Konkan Railway.

The crackdown is part of the railway's efforts to ensure a safe, orderly, and comfortable experience for authorized passengers. With ticket checking drives set to continue, passengers are advised to travel with valid tickets to avoid fines and penalties.

QUICK READ

St Aloysius University to Host Aloysian Games 2026

Mangaluru

St Aloysius (Deemed to be University) in Mangaluru is gearing up to host the Aloysian Games 2026, one of South India's largest sports festivals, from January 3 to 11, 2026. This thrilling event features 13 competitive sports and a mega marathon, attracting over 20,000 participants, spectators, and volunteers. The games include indoor sports like chess, table tennis, badminton, martial arts, and powerlifting, as well as outdoor sports like football, volleyball, basketball, throwball, box cricket, ground cricket, athletics, and swimming. The marathon, scheduled for January 4, 2026, offers 10K, 5K, and 3K runs. Registration is open to college students and independent athletes across India, with fees starting at Rs 200 for individual entry sports, Rs 1,000 for team entry sports, and Rs 350 for marathon registrations. Interested participants can register online through the official event portal https://aloysiangames.com.

Nitte Climate Action Program 2025 Concludes

Mangaluru

The Nitte Climate Action Program (NCAP) 2025 concluded with a grand valedictory function at Nitte University, Mangaluru, emphasizing the crucial link between scientific education, engineering, and sustainable global development. The event highlighted the importance of technological innovation and responsible leadership in addressing climate challenges. Prof. M.S. Moodithaya, Vice Chancellor of Nitte University, reaffirmed the institution's commitment to sustainability, stating it's a core value reflecting their social responsibility and the Sustainable Development Goals. The event featured a Model Display Competition showcasing eco-friendly designs and innovative sustainability concepts, with prizes awarded to winners. The program attracted a large turnout from the public and academic community, emphasizing the growing interest in climate action and sustainability.

Mangaluru Ecumenical Meet Celebrates 1700 Years of Nicene Creed

Mangaluru

The Christian community in Mangaluru came together to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, celebrating faith, unity, and the enduring foundation of Christian doctrine. The event, themed "Celebrating Faith that Unites Us," was jointly organized by several Christian institutions. Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha reaffirmed the Creed's timeless significance, stating, "The great and unique Creed preserved by the Church down the ages cannot be suppressed." The event featured theological reflections, cultural performances, and ecumenical participation from diverse Christian traditions, highlighting the community's shared commitment to unity and collaboration.

Web Developer Turns Farmer, Cultivates Kerala's Red Rice

Rakthashali is a 3,000-year-old rice variety grown mainly in Wayanad, Kerala, known for its numerous health benefits.

MANGALURU

A web developer from Yermal on the Karnataka coast has defied conventional wisdom by successfully cultivating Kerala's traditional red rice variety, Rakthashali, on local soil. Utpal, who has been interested in farming for several years, planted Rakthashali paddy on 60 cents of land and harvested about 300 kg of paddy.

Rakthashali is a 3,000-year-old rice variety grown mainly in Wayanad, Kerala, known for its numerous health benefits. It is completely organic and highly sensitive to chemicals, making it a challenging crop to grow. However, Utpal's experiment has proved that with the right approach, it can thrive in coastal climates.

"I love experimenting with new crops," Utpal said. "Though many people told me this rice wouldn't suit our weather, I took it as a challenge and succeeded. If the agriculture department supports such experimental cultivation, more farmers will benefit."

The red rice is not only rare but also highly nutritious, helping control diabetes and balancing the body's three doshas. Due to its high demand, it is sold at a premium price of Rs 250-300 per kg in the market.

Utpal's next challenge is processing the paddy into rice, as machines for this variety are only available in Kerala. He plans to follow the traditional home method of pounding the paddy using a wooden pestle.

Encouraged by his success, Utpal now plans to try growing black rice in the next season, known for its detoxifying properties and rich in antioxidants.

Utpal's innovative approach to farming has shown that with determination and experimentation, even the most challenging crops can be grown successfully, paving the way for more farmers to explore new opportunities in agriculture.

Mangaluru's New Traffic Signals Still Awaiting Full Operation

MANGALURU

Despite being installed nearly a year ago, the new traffic signals in Mangaluru are yet to become fully operational. The Smart City project, managed by the police department through the command control room, has only undergone limited trial runs.

The signals, installed at several junctions, have not started functioning completely, with most only displaying a blinking amber light. Citizens are concerned that the signals, installed at a cost of several lakhs of rupees, remain unused.

Trial runs were conducted at select junctions, including KSRTC junction, Ballalbagh, Bunts Hostel, and Balmatta junctions, but the sudden increase in congestion prompted officials to review and modify signal intervals. Currently, traffic signals are functioning at Lalbagh, PVS Circle, Hampankatta, Kankanady Karavali Circle, and KPT junction on National Highway 66.

However, newly installed signals at Bendorewell, Bendore Horticulture Office, Bijai KSRTC, Ballalbagh, Ladyhill, Bunts Hostel, and Balmatta junctions remain inactive. The issue is further compounded by bus stops located near traffic signals, adding to congestion.

DCP (Traffic and Crime) Ravishankar K stated that minor changes identified during trial operations are being implemented, and traffic signal systems at Bunts Hostel and Bendore Horticulture Office junctions will be made operational shortly. The signal at Panambur junction on NH-66 has already been reactivated.

The delay in making the signals operational has sparked frustration among citizens, who are urging authorities to provide alternative arrangements before activating the new signals.

DISHA Meeting Raises Concerns over Bikarnakatte-Sanur Road Project

MANGALURU

A DISHA meeting held under the leadership of Mangaluru MP Capt. Brijesh Chowta highlighted several concerns regarding the Bikarnakatte-Sanur road project. Moodbidri MLA Umanath Kotian questioned the alignment of the highway near Gurupura, stating that the diversion through Addur has increased the distance by 5-6 km, defeating the purpose of a highway.

Nominated member Jayananda Chellyar expressed concerns over the project's slow progress, citing the Kethikal hill landslide area as an example. He questioned the rush to set up a toll collection point at Surathkal despite incomplete construction and sought clarity on when toll collection would begin.

National Highways Project Director Javed Azmi reported that 21 km of the 41 km stretch is complete, with 47% of the work done. However, Capt. Brijesh Chowta questioned the progress, stating that he hasn't seen any major work happening on the Kulur Bridge.

Regarding the Kulur bridge project, Azmi informed that 45% of the work is complete, with three pillars remaining. The project is expected to be finished by January 2026, and the new bridge is likely to open for traffic by March 2026.

Locals can obtain a monthly pass for ₹350, allowing up to 50 trips, as per central government guidelines. However, the toll plaza under construction at Surathkal will not provide exemptions for local residents.

New Mangalore Port Authority Celebrates Golden Jubilee

MANGALURU

The New Mangalore Port Authority is set to celebrate, a milestone marking 50 years of its operational journey, on November 13 at Dr B R Ambedkar Stadium.

The event will be attended by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal as the chief guest, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi, and Karnataka Minister for Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water Transport Mankal Vaidya.

The celebration is expected to draw thousands of stakeholders, including employees, trade bodies, port users, retired personnel, students, and members of the public. An exhibition showcasing the port's 50-year journey and development milestones will be a key attraction, and an exhibition vehicle will tour hinterland regions to raise awareness about the port's contribution to maritime trade and regional development.

Several infrastructure projects will be inaugurated and dedicated to the nation as part of the celebrations, highlighting the port's commitment to growth and development.

Cong Slams NMPA for Snubbing Local Leaders in Golden Jubilee Invitation

MANGALURU

The Surathkal Block Congress Committee has accused the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) of violating protocol by excluding local elected representatives and dignitaries from the invitation list for its Golden Jubilee celebrations.

In a letter to NMPA Chairman, committee president Purushottam Chitrapur alleged that the omission was a deliberate snub to local leaders who have contributed to the port's development. He cited the example of the late U.S. Mallya, a Congress leader who played a key role in establishing NMPA, and other Congress leaders like former Union Minister Janardhan Poojari and late Oscar Fernandes, who made significant contributions to the port's growth.

The invitation list excludes prominent Congress leaders, including former ministers, MPs, and MLAs, which is a serious breach of protocol, Chitrapur said. He demanded that the error be rectified and warned that if not, Congress workers would protest outside NMPA premises on the day of the function, carrying black flags.

Chitrapur emphasized that NMPA is a public institution, and its official functions should be inclusive, transcending political boundaries. He urged the authorities to correct the mistake and ensure that all stakeholders are involved in the celebrations.

Parent-Teacher Meetings Set in 1,559 Govt Institutions on Nov 14

MANGALURU

The Zilla Panchayat CEO, Vinayak Narwade Karbari, announced that parent-teacher meets will be held in 1,559 government educational institutions in Dakshina Kannada district on November 14, as per the state government's orders.

Speaking to the media, Karbari said the meets will be held from 10 am to 1:30 pm in 225 primary schools, 658 higher primary schools, 171 high schools, and 55 government pre-university colleges across the district.

The objective of the meet is to involve parents in the education process, increase enrollment in government schools, and create awareness about government initiatives. The meets will begin with the recitation of the constitution's preamble, followed by discussions on student progress, attendance, and exam preparations.

Experts will also address parents on how to overcome exam stress and improve concentration among students. The meets will also recognize students who have excelled in various fields and provide information on various acts and schemes.

Preparations for the event are already underway, Karbari said, urging parents to participate and make the event a success.

Explora Fiesta 2025: A 3-Day Carnival of Fun, Food, and Festivity

MANGALURU

The City is gearing up for a vibrant celebration, Explora Fiesta 2025, a three-day cultural and public festival organized by Father Muller Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital (FMHMC&H) from November 14 to 16 at Father Muller Grounds, Kankanady.

The fiesta will be inaugurated by Dubai-based entrepreneur Michael D'Souza, along with renowned Bharatnatyam dancer Remona Evette Pereira and international award winner Reuben Jason Machado. The event promises to be a spectacular mix of flavors, culture, and entertainment, with over 60 stalls, including 30 food outlets and 30 lifestyle and vehicle exhibits.

Visitors can enjoy a wide variety of cuisines, shop for jewelry and fashion accessories, and explore interactive product displays. The crowd can also enjoy popular contests, including Fancy Dress, Ramp Walk, Talented Duos, and Dance Competitions, with a total prize pool of Rs 1.5 lakh. Spot games and entertainment shows will keep visitors of all age groups engaged throughout the evenings.

Explora Fiesta 2025 aims to create a space where learning meets leisure, blending the academic spirit of EXPLORA 2025 with the joy of community participation. The event reflects FMCI's vision of strengthening public relations and fostering goodwill beyond institutional boundaries. With free entry and ample parking, this fiesta is a must-attend for everyone.

The event is expected to draw a large crowd, and organizers have made necessary arrangements to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for all.

Fake Diamond Scam Unfolds in City

MANGALURU

A city-based jeweller has fallen victim to a sophisticated diamond scam, where two men attempted to cheat him by offering fake diamonds along with forged certificates. The complaint was lodged by Arun Shet at the Mangaluru North police station.

The accused, Ashraf, initially visited Shet's jewellery shop on October 7, showcasing a 3-carat diamond for Rs 18 lakh. Later, his relative Mehaboob displayed a 2-carat diamond, claiming it was genuine and priced at Rs 6 lakh, accompanied by GIA certificates.

However, tests revealed the diamonds were lab-grown (CVD) and the certificates were forged. The actual market value of the 2-carat lab-grown diamond is around Rs 50,000, and the 3-carat stone is approximately Rs 1 lakh.

Police have registered a case against the accused for creating fake documents and attempting to cheat by passing off lab-grown diamonds as natural ones. Investigation is underway.

This incident highlights the growing concern of diamond scams, where fraudsters use authentic GIA certificates and laser inscriptions to deceive unsuspecting buyers. To avoid such scams, verify certificates online, use commercial detection tools, and consult certified gemologists.

RED FLAGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

- **Unrealistic Prices:** Be cautious of "too-good-to-be-true" deals.
- **High-Pressure Sales Tactics:** Avoid rushed transactions.
- **Inconsistent Paperwork:** Ensure certificates match the diamond's characteristics.

Stay vigilant and informed to protect yourself from diamond scams.

Jail Jammer Causes Network Chaos in City, Affects Court Proceedings

MANGALURU

The installation of a mobile network jammer at the Mangalore District Jail has backfired, causing widespread network disruptions in the surrounding areas, including the nearby court premises. The jammer, intended to prevent inmates from using mobile phones, has been affecting the work of lawyers and causing inconvenience to the public.

According to reports, the jammer's range extends beyond the jail premises, affecting mobile networks in the surrounding areas, including the court complex, which is about 800 meters away from the jail. Lawyers have alleged that the network disruption is hampering their work, making it difficult for them to communicate with their clients and conduct court proceedings.

In a bizarre twist, it has been alleged that the inmates inside the jail are still able to use their mobile phones, while the public outside, including lawyers, are struggling to get a network signal. The Mangalore Bar Association has taken up the issue with the authorities, demanding that the jammer's range be adjusted to prevent inconvenience to the public.

The association has given a deadline to the government to resolve the issue, failing which they will launch a protest. The issue has also been brought to the notice of the High Court, which has sought a report on the jammer's range and its functioning.

The case has highlighted the challenges faced by authorities in balancing security concerns with public convenience. While the intention behind installing the jammer was to prevent inmates from using mobile phones, it has ended up causing hardship to the public and disrupting court proceedings.

The High Court's intervention is expected to bring some relief to the lawyers and the public, who are eagerly awaiting a solution to the network woes caused by the jail jammer.

QUICK READ

Tech snag delays metro ops on Yellow Line

Bengaluru

Mild delays on Namma Metro disrupted rush hour on Wednesday morning. The delays were caused by a technical snag in one of the trains operating on the yellow line. The issue was resolved within 15 minutes, between 8:32 and 8:47 am. "It was an issue with the brakes. Our technical team immediately went to the spot and resolved the issue." said a Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) spokesperson.

EV car driver flees after car clash in B'luru

Bengaluru

Complaints of negligence by EV drivers in Bengaluru have come to the fore after anger over the negligence of electric bus drivers. One such incident took place on the way from Yelahanka to Mekri Circle. A driver of an EV car has been involved in a series of accidents and collided with three cars and fled the scene after the accident. The incident took place on Hebbal road near Yelahanka in Bengaluru and three cars were severely damaged.

Mysterious man found on Metro pillar

Bengaluru

A bizarre incident took place near Jalahalli Cross in Bengaluru. A man sitting suspiciously on the metro pillar has created a lot of curiosity among the public. The man was sitting in a cramped space of the Metro Pillar at Jalahalli Cross. He sat relaxed, watching the vehicles below, even though they were constantly moving.
Motorists and pedestrians were shocked to see his bizarre behaviour.

Vijayendra condoles death of film actor Gaddappa

Bengaluru

State BJP president and MLA BY Vijayendra has expressed deep condolences on the death of actor Channegowda of Gaddappa fame in Mandya district. The film 'Tithi', which was released about 10 years ago, was highly appreciated; it also won many awards. Channegowda played the role of Gaddappa in this film.

Winter comes knocking early in B'luru

The IMD has predicted a stark fall in mercury across the state, particularly over South Interior K'taka

BENGALURU

A dip in temperatures across the state has paved way for an early onset of winter with Bengaluru witnessing cooler temperatures below the standard norm.

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a stark fall in mercury across the state but particularly over South Interior Karnataka. Other regions too will experience cooler temperatures well below normal.

The city experienced mild warmth during daytime with

cooler nights and mornings. City recorded a temperature of 17.5 degree Celsius, 1.5 degree below the normal.

Even Kempegowda International Airport witnessed crisp winter mornings, with minimum temperatures hitting 16.6 degrees Celsius,1 degree Celsius below normal.

IMD reported that Belagavi witnessed the lowest minimum temperature at 11.2 degrees Celsius.

For the next 3-4 days, similar conditions will persist over Bidar, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Bagalkote and Kalaburagi. The minimum temperatures too will remain 2-3 degree Celsius below the standard norm.

However, skies in city are likely to remain clear for the next 3-4 days with misty or foggy early mornings. The temperatures will hover between 17-20 degree Celsius.

After weeks of humidity, city residents have welcomed the shift in weather. Early morning walkers have noticed a slight crisp in the air along with comfortable warm winter sun.

IMD claims these weather conditions are consistent with with post-monsoon wind patterns and reduced moisture levels. As the Monsoon recedes from the state, it gives way for northeasterly winds to dominate and cool the interiors of the region.

BSCC moots shelter homes for dogs

BENGALURU

Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) Commissioner KN Ramesh has directed the authorities concerned to relocate stray dogs from public areas and set up separate shelters for them.

He also asked them to collect information about the stray dogs in public places like schools, colleges, hospitals, bus stands and sports complexes/ grounds and take steps to capture and relocate them to shelters.

He said that the estimated number of dogs to be evacuated should be determined. It is also important to identify suitable places to build shelter for these dogs and identify competent NGOs to capture and manage dogs.

The authorities have been

entrusted with the responsibility of vaccinating the captured dogs, nurturing them and providing them with necessary food and veterinary care.

The Commissioner directed the meeting to submit a proposal for allocation of funds for infrastructure development of these shelter homes.

'Act in time- bound manner'

The authorities should give more importance to this issue, he said and asked the officials to carry out all the tasks within the stipulated time.

Take up white-topping on Hennur–Bagalur Road after blocking traffic: Rao

BENGALURU

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao instructed officials to carry out white-topping work on the Hennur–Bagalur Road by restricting vehicular movement on half of the road.

As part of the Greater Bengaluru Authority's ongoing infrastructure projects, he conducted a late-night inspection from 11:30 PM to 2:45 AM on Wednesday to review the progress of white-topping on Hennur–Bagalur Road, asphalting works on the Outer Ring Road and other stretches, as well as the completion of the Hosakerehalli flyover and the JC Road white-topping project.

Approximately 5 km of the Hennur–Bagalur Road within the East City Corporation limits is being white-topped. During his previous visit last week, the Chief Commissioner had issued strict instructions to the contractor to expedite the work, following which the work has gained momentum.

Out of the 5 km stretch, white-topping has already been completed for 1 km on one side and 600 meters on the other. To accelerate completion, traffic will be restricted on a 1.2 km portion from Poorna Prajna School to Gubbi Cross, allowing two-way movement on the remaining half. The work is to be completed within 25 days, after which vehicular movement will be allowed on the finished section. Subsequently, similar phased restrictions of 1–1.5 km segments will be implemented, as per the approval granted by the Traffic Police.

To prevent traffic congestion during the execution of works, the Chief Commissioner directed the DCP to deploy Home Guards to ensure no vehicles are parked along the work zones and to manage the traffic flow efficiently.

All potholes along the Hennur–Bagalur Road have been filled, and debris from the roadside has been cleared. The Chief Commissioner instructed that the white-topping work be carried out round the clock to ensure timely completion within the stipulated period.

ISF announces winners of Infosys Prize 2025

BENGALURU

The Infosys Science Foundation (IDF) announced the Infosys Prize for 2025 on Wednesday.

This year, six winners have been chosen, from across various fields of science.

Trustees of the Infosys Science Foundation Narayana Murthy, Kris Gopalakrishna, SD Shibulal, Srinath Batni, Pratima Murthy and Foundation President K Dinesh announced the awards at a function held at the foundation's premises in Jayanagar on Wednesday.

The winners across the six categories include Nikhil Agarwal for Economics, Sushant Sahadeva for Engineering and Computer Science, Andrew Ollet for humanities and social sciences, Anjana Bhadrinarayanan for Life Sciences, Sabyasachi Mukherjee for Mathematical Sciences, and Karthish Manthiram for Physical Sciences.

Of the six, one belongs to Bengaluru, Anjana is an Associate Professor, Cellular Organization and Signaling, National Centre for Biological Sciences. The awardees will receive a gold medal, a citation, and a cash prize of 1 lakh US dollars (approximately Rs 88 lakh).

OC exemption for 30x40 buildings fails to bring respite to residents

BENGALURU

The recent state government decision to exempt buildings built on 30x40 square feet plots from Occupancy Certificate (OC) came as a big relief for lakhs of people, who were facing problems due to non-availability of such certificates. But due to one reason, they continue to be in trouble as such buildings are not being provided with electricity connections yet.

Close player

Although more than four lakh houses were built, they were in the dark without electricity connection.

Due to the demands of the people and electricity contractors, the government decided that OC is not mandatory for buildings on 30x40 plots. In addition, 'G' plus two floors and stilt plus three floors have been allowed. However, thousands of houses are not able to be provided with electricity connection. The rooms and rooms or toilets have been built on the stilts, that is, the ground, without leaving a complete parking space, and on the third floor, electricity

connection is being hampered.

Although exemptions were given for buildings with an area of 30x40, residents are now stuck in a bind. Electrical contractors say this is a problem in thousands of buildings. The government has given permission for only three floors in total. Even if a small bathroom or store room is built beyond three floors, permission is not given. Contractors are insisting that such buildings be considered.

Overall, the government has exempted OC for 30x40 buildings. In addition, the rule of G plus two or stilt plus three floors should be relaxed a little for already constructed buildings. People and contractors are complaining that this will cause a lot of problems.

'Land worth ₹10 crore cleared off encroachment'

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru South City Corporation conducted an encroachment clearance operation in the Uttarahalli Sub-Division at Arehalli Village under the limits of the Uttarahalli Ward.

Based on a public complaint submitted to the Karnataka Lokayukta, it was found that unauthorized sheds had been constructed on Survey Nos 2, 6/2, and 4, covering an area of approximately 6,000 square feet along the 2nd and 3rd Main Roads in Uttarahalli ward, thereby encroaching upon public road space.

Pursuant to the directions issued by the Hon'ble Lokayukta, the City Corporation undertook a clearance drive to remove the identified encroachments. During the operation, the illegal structures

erected across the public road were demolished, thereby restoring unhindered access for public use.

Approximately 6,000 square feet of land worth around Rs 10 crore has been reclaimed by the City Corporation.

Further legal action will be initiated against the individuals responsible for the encroachment as per applicable provisions. The operation was carried out under the supervision of the EE and AE of concerned division.

Hands-on science centre in city by Dec

BENGALURU

The city is set to welcome ParSEC Whitefield, a 30,000 sqft experiential science Centre by Param Foundation, a new landmark in science and innovation.

Scheduled to open near the Vydehi College in December, the centre aims to blend science, art, culture, and wellness through hands-on, interactive exhibits. Unlike traditional museums, ParSEC Whitefield will feature immersive installations on topics such as artificial intelligence, ancient Indian science, geometry, colour and light, and electricity.

The centre will introduce open lab hours, allowing visitors to build and experiment with real tools under expert guidance, probably a first-of-its-kind concept in Indian science spaces. Located amid Whitefield's IT corridors and 50-plus schools, the centre expects 10,000–12,000 monthly visitors and aims to reach 1.5 lakh annually, including 70,000 students through workshops and innovation challenges. Funded through donors, CSR partners, and institutional collaborations, key supporters include Mythic Society, Volvo, Janatics, and Ola Foundation. The centre will sustain itself through ticketing, memberships, and community programmes.

Basavanagudi set for plastic-free groundnut fair

BENGALURU

As the Malleswaram Kadalekai Parishe (groundnut fair) is coming to an end, the countdown has begun for the Basavanagudi Kadalekai Parishe. As part of the preparations, the Greater Bengaluru Authority has decided to fine those who litter in and around the area where the historic Basavanagudi Kadalekai Parishe will be held.

The Fair 2025 will begin in Basavanagudi from November 17. A review meeting was held under the leadership of Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy, local MLAs and GBA officials, and it has been decided to celebrate the fair in a plastic-free manner.

In addition, people coming to the fair cannot litter anywhere. The GBA has also made a plan to create awareness about this and impose a fine of up to Rs 2,000 on the litterbug. Marshals have also been deployed to check littering.

"This time, it will be a plastic-free fair. Plastic bags cannot be used in shops and those who found using them will be fined up to Rs 2,000," said West Municipal Commissioner KV Rajendra.

The Authority had recently celebrated a Garbage Festival in the city by holding 'Operation Garbage', aiming to create awareness about littering.

NEW AGE ADDITIONS

NIMHANS helps manga-obsessed youth get back on track

BENGALURU

What began as harmless escapism for a youth aged 25, soon spiraled into an all-consuming habit that kept him confined to his room for nearly 14 hours a day.

Immersed in the fantastical world of 'Japanese manga' comic books and graphic novels, he stopped applying for jobs, avoided conversations with family, and withdrew completely from the outside world. Worried by this near-total detachment, the youth's mother turned to the Service for Healthy Use of Technology (SHUT) Clinic at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), where doctors diagnosed him with severe anxiety, moderate

internet addiction, and an anxious-avoidant personality.

The case was recently documented in the journal Geopsychiatry. It threw light on a growing trend of manga overuse among youngsters seeking comfort in fictional worlds. The case study revealed that the young man's story was shaped by early experiences of parental conflict, neglect, paternal abuse, and bullying at school.

Poor academic performance further eroded his confidence and sense of belonging.

To cope with loneliness, he turned to solitary pleasures, junk food, anime, and eventually, manga. The richly drawn narratives of manga, often revolving around powerful heroes and complex villains, offered him escape and validation.

He particularly liked villainous characters because nobody messed with them, and they could do whatever they wanted', the study notes. Over nearly a decade, this reading habit deepened, and in the six months prior to seeking help, it became all-consuming.

Family factors, reduced communication play a major role: Doc

Lack of communication, reduced family-based activities, and inability to find suitable offline hobbies lead youngsters to immersion in manga. Once this becomes their primary way of spending the day, it turns problematic, said Dr Manoj Kumar Sharma, Professor in Clinical Psychology at NIMHANS and corresponding author of the study. "In the last six months alone, we have seen at least six or seven cases of excessive manga consumption. Most of these patients were aged between 16 and 17," he added.

MLA: Will ensure infra to make Yeshwantpur into model constituency

BENGALURU

MLA ST Somashekar said that sincere efforts will be made to ensure infrastructure to every village in Yeshwantpur constituency and develop it into a model constituency.

Speaking after performing a puja for the concrete road and drainage development work near the Maramma temple in Hemmigepur village of Yeshwantpur assembly constituency, he said that sincere efforts will be made to adequately provide basic amenities such as roads, drainage, drinking water and street lighting to all the villages in the constituency.

A grant of Rs 113 crore has been released by the state government. This money has been used for drinking water supply, roads, drainage, educational progress etc. by distributing it appropriately to all the wards of the constituency, thereby increasing the pace of development.

Every GP should have a residential school: Min

Dr. M.C. Sudhakar emphasized the need for quality education and proposed one residential school in every GP

CHIKKABALLAPUR

At the district-level tri-monthly KDP meeting held at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Auditorium in Chikkaballapur, Minister for Higher Education and District In-charge Dr. M.C. Sudhakar directed officials to improve KSRTC bus services in all taluk headquarters and district centers, particularly during early mornings and weekends, to benefit students and workers.

Reviewing departmental progress, the minister emphasized that competitive recruitment and merit-based appointments of teachers and lecturers are strengthening government educational institutions. He urged teachers and lecturers to engage actively in academic activities and ensure quality learning environments in government schools and colleges. Instructions were issued to appoint teachers immediately in schools facing staff shortages.

Dr. Sudhakar noted that the government aims to provide high-quality education, nutritious food, and conducive learning conditions in residential schools to attract more rural students. The government plans to open one residential school per Gram Panchayat, ensuring education accessibility for all. Currently, out of 28 Hoblis in the district, four lack residential schools; officials were instructed to identify suitable locations and propose their establishment.

The minister also stressed regular monitoring of hostels and directed that maintenance issues be promptly addressed. He announced that Maulana Azad Model School, presently operating from a rented building in Chintamani town, will soon receive a one-acre government land for constructing its own campus.

Highlighting upcoming development initiatives, Dr. Sudhakar said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will visit Sidlaghatta taluk on November 24 to launch projects worth ₹2,000 crore, including ₹1,400 crore in foundation-stone laying and ₹600 crore in inauguration works. Additionally, 3,000 construction workers will receive tool kits, along with various welfare benefits and title deeds.

Swadeshi Movement key to India's economy: Basavaraj Bommai

CHITRADURGA

Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai emphasized the urgent need for a modern Swadeshi movement to safeguard India's economic freedom, national identity, and sovereignty, drawing parallels with its pivotal role during the freedom struggle. Speaking at the inauguration of the Swadeshi Fair organized by the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch Karnataka in Chitradurga, Bommai remarked that the success of such fairs stems from the inherent Swadeshi sentiment in every Indian. He highlighted the nation's journey from dependency on foreign food to self-reliance, crediting farmers for India's current status as a leading food producer, and underscoring that a self-reliant nation earns self-respect.

Bommai noted that centuries of India's trading spirit—traveling across towns and regions for commerce—can once again reinforce Swadeshi pride. He warned that liberalization, privatization, and globalization have led the country to forget its moral conscience, stressing that sustainable progress comes from human-centered, conscience-driven actions rather than purely profit-focused motives.

The MP stressed India's potential in technology and Artificial Intelligence, especially in agriculture, and urged educated youth to focus on producing and marketing Indian goods globally. Recalling history, Bommai highlighted the role of farmers and laborers in uprisings like the Bardoli Satyagraha and Champaran revolt, as well as the establishment of Tata's iron production in 1908, which marked India's self-reliance and contributed to the British exit.

He concluded that modern India must revive the Swadeshi movement to retain economic independence and national identity, invoking Gandhi's legacy of promoting Indian goods. The event was attended by Sri Shivamurthy Shivacharya Mahaswamiji, MP Govind Karjol, MLC K.S. Naveen, and Prof. B.M. Kumaraswamy.

> **"It has been decided to organize a Swadeshi Fair in every Lok Sabha constituency. Our Prime Minister has given a call to use products made in our own country. We are continuing Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Swadeshi"**
> – Basavaraj Bommai, Ex-CM

MP Basavaraj Bommai criticized Congress for making political remarks on the Delhi bomb blast, stating that politicizing such incidents during ongoing investigations does not bring any glory. He questioned how Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan could predict terrorist attacks, emphasizing that fear and unrest should not be exploited for political gain

Two students drown in Harangi backwaters in Kodagu

MADIKERI

A tragic incident occurred near Heruru village, close to Kushalnagar, in Kodagu district, where two students drowned while swimming in the Harangi backwaters. The mishap took place under the jurisdiction of Suntikoppa Police Station. Authorities, along with personnel from the Kushalnagar Fire and Rescue Department, immediately launched a search and rescue operation.

The victims have been identified as Changappa (17), son of Poovayya Pandir from Hebbettageri village, and Tarun Timmaiah (17), son of Channapanda from Kaluru village. Both were first-year PU students at Madikeri Junior College. The accident occurred around 2 PM, prompting a coordinated rescue effort that continued into the evening.

The rescue team successfully recovered Changappa's body, while efforts to locate Tarun remain ongoing. A case has been registered at Suntikoppa Police Station to investigate the circumstances of the incident. Authorities have warned local residents and students to exercise caution near the backwaters.

Govt issues official orders on menstrual leave

BENGALURU

The government has officially issued an order granting menstrual leave to women employees across all sectors, including government, aided, and private institutions. Under the directive, women are entitled to one paid day off per month, totaling 12 days per year, specifically for menstrual reasons. The decision follows a recent cabinet approval, and the Labour Department has now issued formal instructions to implement the leave.

The leave is mandatory for all women employees aged 18 to 52 years. This progressive step aims to recognize and support the health and well-being of women in workplaces, ensuring that they can manage their menstrual cycles without having to compromise on work or productivity.

Institutions have been instructed to comply strictly with the order and facilitate smooth implementation. Officials emphasized that this move promotes gender-sensitive policies and creates a more inclusive work environment, recognizing the biological needs of women employees. By providing paid menstrual leave, the government hopes to improve employee satisfaction, health, and overall workplace efficiency while setting a precedent for other states and private employers to follow.

The order specifies two key conditions

- Women employees must use their menstrual leave within the respective month it is due. Carrying forward leave from a previous month to the next is not allowed.
- No medical certificate is required for availing menstrual leave.

HC seeks govt response over panchayat reservation list

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has issued a notice to the State Government on a petition filed by the State Election Commission (SEC), urging it to take immediate action to finalize and publish the reservation list for 5,950 Gram Panchayats whose terms will expire by January 2026.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha directed the government to file its objections within two weeks, noting that the issue was of "serious concern." The bench stated that the state must act promptly, emphasizing the urgency of finalizing the reservation list under Section 5(5) of the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 1993, to avoid delays in conducting elections.

Government Advocate Niloufer Akbar requested a week's time to seek instructions, arguing that the plea pertained to an office falling vacant only in January 2026. However, the bench responded that the government should have anticipated the situation, warning that failure to release the reservation list would halt the election process.

The court observed that without the final list of reserved seats, the SEC cannot issue election notifications, potentially forcing a postponement of elections and leading to the appointment of administrators in the affected panchayats.

Repair and servicing training camp

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The Canara Bank Rural Self-Employment Training Institute (RSETI) at Sonnahalli village, Hosakote taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, will conduct a free 30-day training camp on two-wheeler repair and servicing from November 20. Youth aged 18 to 45 years from any district of Karnataka can participate. The camp will offer free training, food, and accommodation. Priority will be given to BPL cardholders. Applicants must understand Kannada and possess basic reading and writing skills. Participants will receive a certificate from the Central Government upon completion.

NAME CHANGE

I, **KRISHNA CHARI MARIYANAGARA YOGACHAR**, S/o. Yogachar B S, resident of No. 103, 3rd B Cross, Nandagokula Layout, Ramasandra, Sulikere Post, Bengaluru - 560060, have changed my name to **KRISHNACHARI MARIYANAGARA YOGACHAR** Vide Affidavit Dated 12.11.2025 before notary V.RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MHAPARA** alias **MHABOOB MHAPARA**, W/o. M Mohammed Habeeb, resident of No. 36 4th Cross, 2nd Main Near Vittala Temple, Vittala Nagar Chamrajpet, Bangalore - 560 018, that name is mentioned in Aadhar card and pan card **MHAPARA**, I declare that **MHAPARA** and **MHABOOB MHAPARA**, Both the names are belongs to one and the same person i.e., myself only. Vide Affidavit Dated. 12.11.2025 Before Notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bangalore.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, Building Division, SJP Campus, Bengaluru, Phone: 080-22255210
No. EE/Bld.1/AE-3/AE-2/2025-26/54 Date: 11.11.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderers **for providing and fixing aluminium partition, painting, flooring, false ceiling, roller blinds, providing security arrangements, providing and installing rosewood special antique style carving doors and other development works, total of 3 works at various notified places.** Approx. value of work: **Min. Rs. 16.69 lakhs, Max. Rs. 241.12 lakhs.** EMD: **Min. Rs.41,800/-, Max. Rs. 3,61,700/-.** Cost of Document: **As in e-portal.** Period of Completion: **from 3 to 10 Months (including rainy season).** Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **for Sl.No.1&2: 18.11.2025 up to 5.00 PM and for Sl.No.3: 26.11.2025 up to 5.00 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: as per e-procurement guidelines. Further information regarding brief details of works, approx. value of work, EMD, period of completion, reservation and other details can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/3733/KSMCA/2025-26

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka State
No: VTU/BGM/RE/2025-26/IFT No. 100/4079 Date: 11-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Two Cover System (KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tenders are invited induplicate from eligible tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi-18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the works of **1)** Renovation of toilet blocks at Administrative building at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi amounting to **Rs. 1,19,49,118/-** (Excluding GST). **2)** Repairs and painting works for ladies hostel, Boys hostel, Science building, Computer science building, industrial production building & internet building at UBDT, College of Engineering, Davangere amounting to **Rs.1,77,11,115/** (Excluding GST). Other details log on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on Date: **14-11-2025.**

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi
DIPR/Belagavi/1300/Adverto/2025-26

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560100.
E-Mail: ka.konappanaagrahara.tmc@gmail.com
ನಂ.ಪು.ಕಾ.ಕೋ/ತಾಂ.ಶಾ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/12/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.11.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26ನೇಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಮುಕ್ತನಿಧಿ, ಎಸ್ಸಿಎಸ್ಪಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಷರತ್ತು ಹಾಗೂ ಸೂಚನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. Indent No:DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT43850/CALL-4. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.3.84 ಲಕ್ಷ** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK-INDENT43888/CALL-4 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.**0.73 ಲಕ್ಷ** DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK-INDENT43951/CALL-4 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **4.01 ಲಕ್ಷ**. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ವಿವರಗಳು: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 19.11.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17.15 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ,** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20.11.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 17.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು** DMA/2025-26/RD/ WORK_INDENT48562/CALL-2(CAT-1) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 41.15 ಲಕ್ಷ** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು **ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26.11.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 17.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ,** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28.11.2025ರ 11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಯಾವುದೇ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ವಾರ್ತ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ /–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/3738/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025–26

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MYSURU
(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
Irvin Road, Mysuru - 570 001, **Ph:** +91-0821-2520512 (Off.)
Email: mmcrimysore@yahoo.com, **Website:** www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in
No. Sup/CR/389/2023-24 **Date :** 03.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

Sub : Invitation of tender to run the Canteen at the campus of P.K.T.B & C.D Hospital, Traum Care Centre & Super speciality Hospital, MMC & RI, Mysuru.

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 to run the Canteen in the premises P.K.T.B & C.D Hospital, Traum Care Centre, & Superspeciality of this Institution. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **12.11.2025** and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is **26.11.2025 upto 5.00 PM.** Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected.

If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Sd/- Director and Dean
Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru.
DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/1213/2025-26

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

BEFORE THE COURT OF XXXVIII ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, AT BENGALURU
C.C No. 23404/2021

Between: M/s. GILADA FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED, Registered office at No.105, R.R Takt, 37, Bhoopasandra Main Road, Bengaluru-560 094. Represented by its Authorized Signatory **Mr. Mosin S.G,** Son of Gous Sharif, aged about 35 years, **...Complainant**

And: Mr. KHANDEKWAL JITENDAR .N, Son of Narpatlal, Proprietor of M/s Clothing Palette, No. 29-1, 2nd Floor, 'C' Block, 8th Cross, Magadi Road, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru- 560 058 **...Accused**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Complainant has filed the above complaint before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru, that the accused, **Mr. Khandekwal Jitendar .N,** is suspected to have committed the offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and the arrest warrant issued thereupon has returned and that the said accused **Mr. Khandekwal Jitendar .N,** cannot be found.

AND WHEREAS, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru that the said accused has been absconding or concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said Warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Mr. Khandekwal Jitendar .N, is required to appear before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru to answer the said complaint on **28/11/2025**

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 29/10/2025

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, XXXVIII ADDL. Chief Judicial, Magistrate Court, Bengaluru City

Neeraj Rajiv Shivam, Advocates
M/s. Astra Law Chambers,
No. 4, Pamadi Towers, 1st floor,
Flat No. 11, Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar,
Bangalore-560 009.
Ph No: +91 99169 24411.
Neerajrajivshivam@astralawchambers.com

BEFORE THE COURT OF XXXVIII ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, AT BENGALURU
C.C No. 16870/2022 (CH-38)

Between: M/s. GILADA FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED, Registered office at No.105, R.R Takt, 37, Bhoopasandra Main Road, Bengaluru-560 094. Represented by its Authorized Signatory **Mrs. Iswaria Rajan,** Wife of J. Yuvaraj, aged about 37 years, Bengaluru-560 040 **...Complainant**

And: Mr. BIJOY ROY, Son of Adhir Roy, Proprietor of M/s Gangabala Enterprises, No.39, Sri. Maruthi Industrial Town, Karivobanahalli, Thigalarapalya Main Road, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 058 **...Accused**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Complainant has filed the above complaint before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru, that the accused, **Sri. Bijoy Roy** is suspected to have committed the offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and the arrest warrant issued thereupon has returned and that the said accused Sri. Bijoy Roy cannot be found.

AND WHEREAS, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru that the said accused has been absconding or concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said Warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sri. Bijoy Roy is required to appear before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru to answer the said complaint on **28/11/2025**

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 29/10/2025

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, XXXVIII ADDL. Chief Judicial, Magistrate Court, Bengaluru City

Neeraj Rajiv Shivam, Advocates
M/s. Astra Law Chambers,
No. 4, Pamadi Towers, 1st floor,
Flat No. 11, Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar,
Bangalore-560 009.
Ph No: +91 99169 24411.
Neerajrajivshivam@astralawchambers.com

BEFORE THE COURT OF XXXVIII ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, AT BENGALURU
C.C No. 33748/2021 (CH-38)

Between: M/s. GILADA FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED, Registered office at No.105, R.R Takt, 37, Bhoopasandra Main Road, Bengaluru-560 094. Represented by its Authorized Signatory **Mrs. Iswaria Rajan,** Wife of J. Yuvaraj, aged about 37 years, Bengaluru-560 040 **...Complainant**

And: Mrs. Rajalakshmi. S, Wife of Thimmaiah, No.513, Palakelamma Temple Road, Anechepalya Water Tank, Anchepalya, Bengaluru- 560 073. Also at No.15, Lakkenahalli, Hoysalakatte Post, Huliyar Hobli, Chikkanayakanahalli, Tumkur-572 218 **...Accused**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Complainant has filed the above complaint before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru, that the accused, **Smt. Rajalakshmi. S** is suspected to have committed the offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and the arrest warrant issued thereupon has returned and that the said accused **Smt. Rajalakshmi. S** cannot be found.

AND WHEREAS, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru that the said accused has been absconding or concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said Warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Smt. Rajalakshmi. S is required to appear before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru to answer the said complaint on **28/11/2025**

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 29/10/2025

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, XXXVIII ADDL. Chief Judicial, Magistrate Court, Bengaluru City

Neeraj Rajiv Shivam, Advocates
M/s. Astra Law Chambers,
No. 4, Pamadi Towers, 1st floor,
Flat No. 11, Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar,
Bangalore-560 009.
Ph No: +91 99169 24411.
Neerajrajivshivam@astralawchambers.com

BEFORE THE COURT OF XXXVIII ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, AT BENGALURU
C.C No. 23322/2021

Between: M/s. GILADA FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED, Registered office at No.105, R.R Takt, 37, Bhoopasandra Main Road, Bengaluru-560 094. Represented by its Authorized Signatory **Mr. Mosin S.G,** Son of Gous Sharif, aged about 35 years, **...Complainant**

And: Mr. PAHALAVAN KHAN, Son of Bailappa, Resident of No.121, Nalagadaranahalli Main Road, Andrahalli Government School, Andrahalli, Bengaluru-560 091. Also at M/s S.K. Fashions, No.17/1, 17th Cross, Bagalagunte, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru- 560 073 **...Accused**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Complainant has filed the above complaint before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru, that the accused, **Mr. Pahalavan Khan,** is suspected to have committed the offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and the arrest warrant issued thereupon has returned and that the said accused **Mr. Pahalavan Khan,** cannot be found.

AND WHEREAS, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru that the said accused has been absconding or concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said Warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Mr. Pahalavan Khan, is required to appear before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru to answer the said complaint on **28/11/2025**

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 29/10/2025

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, XXXVIII ADDL. Chief Judicial, Magistrate Court, Bengaluru City

Neeraj Rajiv Shivam, Advocates
M/s. Astra Law Chambers,
No. 4, Pamadi Towers, 1st floor,
Flat No. 11, Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar,
Bangalore-560 009.
Ph No: +91 99169 24411.
Neerajrajivshivam@astralawchambers.com

BEFORE THE COURT OF XXXVIII ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, AT BENGALURU
C.C No. 33751/2021

Between: M/s. GILADA FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED, Registered office at No.105, R.R Takt, 37, Bhoopasandra Main Road, Bengaluru-560 094. Represented by its Authorized Signatory **Mr. Mosin S.G,** Son of Gous Sharif, aged about 35 years, **...Complainant**

And: MR. HARISH .B, Son of Bailappa, Resident of No.121, Nalagadaranahalli Main Road, Andrahalli Government School, Andrahalli, Bengaluru- 560 091 **...Accused**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Complainant has filed the above complaint before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru, that the accused, **Sri. Harish .B,** is suspected to have committed the offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and the arrest warrant issued thereupon has returned and that the said accused **Sri. Harish .B,** cannot be found.

AND WHEREAS, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru that the said accused has been absconding or concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said Warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sri. Harish .B, is required to appear before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru to answer the said complaint on **28/11/2025**

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 29/10/2025

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, XXXVIII ADDL. Chief Judicial, Magistrate Court, Bengaluru City

Neeraj Rajiv Shivam, Advocates
M/s. Astra Law Chambers,
No. 4, Pamadi Towers, 1st floor,
Flat No. 11, Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar,
Bangalore-560 009.
Ph No: +91 99169 24411.
Neerajrajivshivam@astralawchambers.com

QUICK READ

Maoist leaders surrender in Jharkhand

Latehar

Two Maoist leaders, including one carrying a ₹5 lakh bounty, surrendered before police in Jharkhand's Latehar district on Wednesday. Police identified them as Brajesh Yadav alias Rakesh Ji, sub-zonal commander from Gumla, and Awdhesh Lohra alias Rohit Lohra, area commander from Latehar. Superintendent of Police Kumar Gaurav said Yadav faces 10 cases while Lohra has five. Both surrendered under the state government's 'Nai Disha' policy, which offers rehabilitation benefits to surrendered Maoists and their families.

Boiler blast kills two workers in Gujarat

Bharuch

Two workers were killed and 20 others injured after a boiler exploded at a pharmaceutical factory in the Saykha GIDC area of Bharuch, Gujarat, early Wednesday. The powerful blast around 2:30 am caused a massive fire and the collapse of the factory structure. District Collector Gaurang Makwana said the fire was later brought under control, and the bodies were recovered from the debris. Officials from the Industrial Safety and Health Department have begun an investigation into the incident.

Modi's degree row: Delhi HC flags delay filing appeals

The matter concerns four appeals filed by RTI activist Neeraj, AAP leader Sanjay Singh, and advocate Mohd Irshad, who challenged a single judge's August 25 order

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed Delhi University (DU) to file its objections to petitions seeking permission to delay appeals against an earlier order concerning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bachelor's degree details.

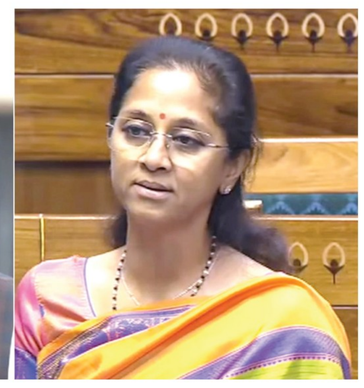
A bench led by Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela granted three weeks for DU to file its reply, and two more weeks for the petitioners to respond. The court scheduled the next hearing for January 16, 2026.

The matter concerns four appeals filed by RTI activist Neeraj, AAP leader Sanjay Singh, and advocate Mohd Irshad, who challenged a single judge's August 25 order that set aside a Central Information Commission (CIC) directive to reveal PM Modi's educational records.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing DU, sought time to file objections, saying he was unaware of the delay in filing the appeals. The court then instructed him to go through the pleas and file a response.

The earlier single judge ruling had held that just because the Prime Minister holds public office, it doesn't mean all his personal details must be disclosed. The court said the Right to Information Act was meant to ensure transparency, not fuel sensationalism.

The 2016 CIC order had allowed inspection of records of students who passed the BA exam in 1978, the year Modi graduated. The High Court will now decide if the delayed appeals can proceed.



Oppn slams BJP for 'inducting' Tuljapur drug case accused

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

They accused the party of giving such people a 'royal patronage'

Leaders from opposition parties, including NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule, have strongly criticized the BJP for allegedly inducting individuals accused in the Tuljapur drug case. They demanded to know why such people were being given "royal patronage."

Earlier this year, Dharashiv police seized mephedrone worth ₹2.5 lakh at the Tamalwadi checkpost on the Solapur–Tuljapur Road and arrested 14 people. The consignment was reportedly bound for Tuljapur, known for the Tulaja Bhavani temple.

Opposition leaders claimed that some of these accused were inducted into the BJP during an event attended by local MLA Ranajagjitsinha Patil on Tuesday. With municipal elections in Maharashtra approaching on December 2, the issue has sparked heated political debate.

In a letter to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Sule expressed concern that the BJP welcomed individuals facing drug-related charges. She wrote that political leaders must avoid giving shelter to socially harmful elements and urged the government to take strict action to reassure citizens.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Ambadas Danve also attacked the BJP, alleging that the party was sheltering "tainted businessmen" and now even drug case accused. Sena MP Omprakash Rajenimbalkar condemned those who support such individuals, urging voters to teach them a lesson in the upcoming elections.

KALESHWARAM PROBE

Telangana HC extends protection for KCR, Harish Rao

HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court has extended till January 2026 its interim order protecting Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao and others from any adverse action by the state government over alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project.

The division bench, headed by Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin, heard the batch of petitions filed by K. Chandrasekhar Rao, former minister T. Harish Rao, former Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar Joshi, and senior IAS officer Smita Sabharwal. During the hearing, the state government's counsel requested additional time to file counter affidavits.

The court granted the extension of interim protection and adjourned the case to January 2026. This protection means that no coercive or adverse action can be taken against the petitioners until further orders.

The matter stems from a judicial inquiry led by retired Supreme Court judge Justice P.C. Ghose into alleged irregularities during the construction of the Kaleshwaram project, one of the largest lift irrigation schemes in the world. The Ghose Commission had submitted its report earlier this year, highlighting lapses in the project's design, execution, and financial management.

The report, tabled in the state assembly in August, reportedly held former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and then Irrigation Minister Harish Rao responsible for key irregularities. Following the assembly debate, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced the decision to refer the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Challenging the commission's findings, KCR, Harish Rao, and others approached the High Court, arguing that the report was biased and politically motivated. The High Court's latest order ensures their continued legal protection pending final judgment.

Sanitation worker thrashes biker for flashing

CHENNAI

A sanitation worker near Adyar Bridge in Chennai confronted and thrashed a biker who allegedly flashed her while she was cleaning the area on Monday morning. The 50-year-old woman's brave reaction was captured on a dashboard camera, sparking public outrage and calls for stronger safety measures for sanitation workers.

The woman was performing her regular cleaning duties when a biker stopped his vehicle in front of her. Initially thinking he needed assistance, she requested him to move his bike so she could continue her work. Instead, the man reportedly unzipped his pants and attempted to expose himself. Shocked by his act, the woman reacted instantly, striking him repeatedly with her broom until he fled the spot.

"I thought he was a young student. But when I went closer, he pulled down his zip. I was shocked but started thrashing him," the worker said in her statement.

The incident was caught on a dashboard camera of a nearby vehicle and later handed over to the police for investigation. The video has since gone viral on social media, drawing widespread condemnation of the perpetrator's behaviour and appreciation for the woman's courage.

Jharkhand winter assembly session from December 5

RANCHI

The Jharkhand Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, on Wednesday approved the state Assembly's winter session from December 5 to December 11. During the meeting, 18 key proposals covering infrastructure, education, administrative reforms, and social welfare were cleared.

Cabinet Secretary Vandana Dadel briefed the media, saying the Cabinet also approved declaring the native Mangur fish as Jharkhand's state fish to boost conservation and promote its commercial production. In addition, e-evidence and e-summons model rules were approved to implement three new criminal laws, aiming to improve transparency and speed up judicial processes. To enhance science and technology education, the government will establish STEM labs in all Chief Minister's Schools of Excellence across Jharkhand's 24 districts. The Cabinet also sanctioned 1,315 promotions to Head Forest Guard posts out of the 3,883 sanctioned positions in the Forest Department.

Old pension scheme benefits were extended to teachers and staff of Netarhat Residential School, the state's premier institution. To promote tourism, the government approved redeveloping a hotel in Deoghar into a four-star facility under a public-private partnership at an estimated cost of Rs 113.97 crore.

Edappadi K Palaniswami condemns arrest of 14 Tamil Nadu fishermen by Sri Lankan

CHENNAI

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami has condemned the arrest of 14 Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy, describing it as an "inhumane and unlawful act" that highlights the continuing ordeal faced by Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait. He urged the Central government to intervene immediately to secure their release.

In a statement posted on X, Palaniswami said the fishermen were unjustly detained while engaged in traditional fishing activities. He noted that such incidents of harassment by the Sri Lankan authorities have become distressingly frequent, leaving coastal communities anxious and insecure.

According to reports, on November 8, 2025, a group of 14 fishermen — 12 from Vanagiri Panchayat in Poompuhar constituency of Mayiladuthurai district and two from Vasanakuppam village near Tharangambadi in Cuddalore district — ventured into the sea aboard a mechanised boat owned by a man named Ramayanam. Due to strong winds and mechanical failure, the vessel drifted off course and crossed into Sri Lankan waters.

Despite the fishermen's repeated explanations and pleas for assistance, the Sri Lankan Navy intercepted the boat on November 9 and arrested all 14 men. Palaniswami criticised the officers for "showing no compassion" and detaining the fishermen instead of helping them return safely.

He demanded that the Sri Lankan government immediately cease such "brutal actions" and called on both the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government to act on a war footing. Palaniswami also urged the state to extend urgent financial aid to the affected families, stressing that these recurring arrests have left fishing communities in deep fear and economic hardship.

"Our fishermen deserve the right to fish freely and safely," he said, appealing for decisive diplomatic measures to protect their lives and livelihoods.

Uttarakhand government forms panels to tackle employment crisis in state

DEHRADUN

In a decisive move to comply with court directives, the Uttarakhand Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, on Wednesday announced the formation of two high-level committees to address long-standing issues concerning contractual staff, wages, and ex-servicemen employment. The Cabinet also approved key amendments to the Uttarakhand Purvanchal Nigam Limited (UPNL).

Following a recent order by the Uttarakhand High Court, a dedicated "Cabinet Committee" will oversee the regularisation of daily wage, acting charge, contract, fixed pay, part-time, and ad-hoc employees across state departments. The committee is tasked with setting future cut-off dates for eligibility, ensuring a transparent and timely process, and resolving thousands of pending cases to stabilise the workforce.

In addition, the Cabinet directed efforts to provide minimum wages and dearness allowance to UPNL personnel, as mandated by the court. A Cabinet Sub-Committee will engage employee unions, finance and law departments, and other stakeholders to finalise recommendations within two months. The panel will also examine financial implications, service conditions, and legal compliance before implementing decisions.

Significantly, the Cabinet approved amendments to UPNL's Memorandum of Association (MoA) and Articles of Association (AoA), allowing the corporation to launch overseas employment schemes for ex-servicemen, their dependents, and unemployed youth. The changes also address income tax compliance gaps and enable UPNL to operate as a global job facilitator using AI-driven skill mapping and international partnerships.

CM Dhami stressed the government's focus on justice, labour dignity, and empowering ex-servicemen and youth, with AI tools aiding efficient claim processing, real-time tracking, and timely committee reports to ensure employment reforms and policy rollout.

Sachin Pilot appeals for fair voter list verification

JAIPUR

Veteran Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Wednesday urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure complete transparency and impartiality in the ongoing voter list verification process, he raised concerns over what he described as the "blatant misuse of constitutional institutions" by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Pilot emphasised the need to clean up voter lists without wrongful additions or deletions. "Our concerns arise from the haste and intent with which similar actions were carried out in Bihar," he said, adding that the Congress Party, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and other INDIA Bloc leaders are unfairly accused of opposing the exercise.

Highlighting the importance of institutional neutrality, Pilot alleged that the BJP is misusing the Election Commission for political gains, including declaring living people dead, adding names of deceased individuals, and in some cases creating up to 250 votes for a single house. "We are firmly opposed to this collusion," he said.

Pilot noted that the Congress has instructed its workers, leaders, and MLAs to visit their constituencies to prevent irregularities and ensure every legitimate vote counts. He criticised the ECI for failing to investigate voter fraud in Haryana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra, despite evidence provided by Rahul Gandhi. "The Commission must remain independent, free of ideological influence, and conduct a fair enquiry," he added.

Pilot announced that Congress will hold a major Delhi event and continue a nationwide signature campaign against voter fraud, aiming to protect electoral integrity and raise awareness of irregularities in voter lists.

'MP will soon become a green energy hub'

BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday inaugurated three compressed biogas (CBG) plants set up by Reliance Green Energy in Bhopal, Indore, and Satna through video conferencing from his residence.

He said Madhya Pradesh is moving towards becoming a major hub for green and renewable energy with private sector support. Highlighting the state's commitment to sustainable growth, Yadav added that integrated power production will help build a clean and bright future for both the state and the nation.

SANCTITY OF COW

Gujarat govt reaffirms commitment to cow protection

AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government has reaffirmed its strong commitment to cow protection and preservation following a landmark court verdict in Amreli, where three men were sentenced to life imprisonment for their involvement in a brutal case of cow slaughter. Each convict was also fined ₹5 lakh, officials said on Wednesday.

State spokesperson and minister Jitu Vaghani praised the judgment, calling it a "red signal" for those engaged in crimes against cows. He emphasised that the cow holds a sacred place in Indian culture and any cruelty toward it would invite the strictest possible punishment under the law.

Vaghani recalled that Gujarat first introduced a stringent anti-cow slaughter law in 2011 under the leadership of then Chief Minister and now Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The law was later strengthened to include life imprisonment, making it one of the toughest in the country.

"This historic verdict demonstrates the government's unwavering determination to uphold justice and protect the sacred values of our culture. Those contemplating such offences will now think twice before breaking the law," Vaghani stated.

He added that the verdict reinforces the rule of law and underlines Gujarat's zero-tolerance approach toward cow slaughter. The minister further highlighted that under Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, the state continues to prioritise cow welfare and protection initiatives.

Cows, he said, hold immense religious, cultural, and economic importance in Gujarat. Beyond being a symbol of motherhood and divinity in Hindu tradition, cows play a vital role in rural life by providing milk, organic manure, and farm support. Protecting cows, Vaghani concluded, reflects a deeper commitment to sustainability, compassion, and respect for all living beings—values central to India's civilisational ethos.

QUICK READ

RAW chief Parag Jain gets additional role

New Delhi

Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) Chief Parag Jain has been given additional charge as Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat. Jain, a 1989-batch IPS officer from the Punjab cadre, has been leading India's external intelligence agency since July 1 on a two-year term. According to an order from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, he will hold the new role until a regular appointment is made or until further orders are issued.

Kerala government seeks halt to PM SHRI

Thiruvananthapuram

The Kerala government has asked the Union Education Ministry to stop further proceedings related to the PM SHRI scheme in the state. General Education Secretary K. Vasuki sent a letter to the ministry on Wednesday, requesting a temporary halt in implementation. According to official sources, the move follows the legal opinion of the Advocate General. The PM SHRI scheme aims to develop schools across India into model institutions with improved infrastructure and learning outcomes.

Red Fort Blast: Cops probe Umar Nabi's mosque stay

"We are probing the matter from all angles, including the possibility of a Fidayeen attack'

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police are probing the movements of Dr Umar Nabi, an assistant professor at Al-Falah University, who is believed to have driven the car that exploded near the Red Fort on Monday, killing 12 people and injuring several others.

Officials revealed that Nabi had visited a mosque on Asaf Ali Road, near the Ram Leela Maidan, where he allegedly stayed for nearly three hours before the blast.

According to police sources, Nabi parked the Hyundai i20 at the Sunehri Masjid parking lot around 3.19 pm after spending hours at the mosque. Investigators suspect that he may have used the time to communicate with handlers or plan the attack. "We are probing the matter from all angles, including the possibility of a fidayeen attack," a senior police officer said.

Officials added that forensic experts are analysing over 40 samples collected from the blast site, including mangled car parts, metal debris, and human remains, to determine the nature of explosives used. A special team of experts has been constituted to study the evidence.

Police are also examining CCTV footage from the mosque area and nearby streets to reconstruct Nabi's movements and identify possible accomplices.

Meanwhile, an alert has been issued across Delhi to trace a red Ford EcoSport suspected to be linked to the case.

The Delhi Police's FIR has invoked sections under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, terming the incident a "bomb blast." Officials confirmed that only Nabi was in the vehicle when it exploded near the Red Fort police post after he took a U-turn on Chhata Rail Chowk road.

J&K cops bust trans-national terrorist network, 2 held

SRINAGAR

A major interstate and trans-national terror module was dismantled in Jammu and Kashmir following the arrest of two overground workers (OGWs) carrying posters of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwatul Hind (AGuH). The operation led to the recovery of arms and nearly 2,900 kilograms of explosive material, officials said on Wednesday.

The Srinagar police arrested the two OGWs on November 2, and a swift investigation by the Nowgam Police Station exposed a wider terror network within three days. Station House Officer (SHO) Inspector Mir Masrat Aalam discovered that the accused were linked to a handler, Moulvi Irfan Ahmad, from Shopian district, who was posing as a prayer leader in Nowgam.

Further investigation revealed that several young doctors, currently employed outside Jammu and Kashmir, were also part of the module. Acting on this intelligence, a police team travelled to Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, and arrested Dr. Adeel Ahmad Rather from a private hospital on November 6. He was brought to Srinagar on transit remand the next day. During questioning, police recovered an AK rifle from his former workplace's locker.

Rather's confession led to the arrest of Dr. Muzamil Ahmad Ganaie from Pulwama, who had recently returned home from Faridabad for his sister's wedding. Based on his information, police seized a large cache of explosives from his rented accommodation in Faridabad. Ganaie reportedly worked alongside Umar Nabi, a key suspect in the Delhi blast case.

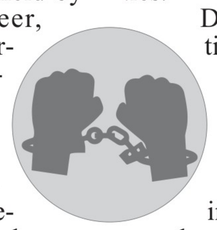
Following these arrests, Inspector Aalam was reassigned to the National Capital Region to assist in related investigations. Meanwhile, police in Kashmir have intensified efforts to trace others linked to the network, including several doctors suspected of aiding recruitment and coordination across the Line of Control.

Pune techie held, Thane teacher questioned by ATS

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has questioned a teacher from Thane district following the arrest of a Pune-based software engineer for alleged links with Al Qaeda and other banned organisations, officials said on Wednesday.

According to officials, the teacher's residence in Mumbra was reportedly used for one of the meetings held by the arrested engineer, identified as 37-year-old Zubair Hangargekar. The ATS arrested Hangargekar on October 27 for his alleged association with Al Qaeda and Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), and for suspected involvement in radicalisation activities.



During the investigation, the ATS found a Pakistani contact number saved in one of Hangargekar's old mobile phones. Further inquiry revealed that he had travelled to Mumbra for a meeting. Acting on this lead, ATS officials visited the teacher's home on Tuesday and recorded his statement regarding Hangargekar's visit. Officials clarified that the teacher is not an accused or a witness in the case at this stage.

Earlier this month, the ATS informed a Pune court that Hangargekar frequently delivered "aggressive" religious discourses in the city's Kondhwa area. A search of his house led to the recovery of mobile phones containing deleted PDF files titled 'Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and All Its Manifestations'. Investigators also found an Urdu translation of a speech by former Al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden and a magazine titled 'Inspire', which included photos of weapon training and details on making improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

The ATS further recovered an old mobile phone from one of Hangargekar's acquaintances. Analysis of the device revealed five saved international contacts—one from Pakistan, two from Saudi Arabia, and one each from Kuwait and Oman. However, officials confirmed that no calls had been made to these numbers.

India-UNDP renews ties to boostr sustainable growth

NEW DELHI

The discussions reaffirmed India's growing partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and its commitment to promoting sustainable development and clean energy initiatives worldwide

MEA Secretary (West) Sibi George met UNDP Acting Administrator Haoliang Xu in New Delhi to discuss ways to strengthen India-UNDP collaboration in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advancing digital transformation. The meeting focused on enhancing project assistance for South-South cooperation, addressing climate challenges in developing nations, and supporting global reforms under the UN80 framework, according to Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs. The discussions reaffirmed India's growing partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and its commitment to promoting sustainable development and clean energy initiatives worldwide. India's contributions to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund were also highlighted as a key example of effective collaboration. Recently, India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations showcased the Fund's success in empowering 10 Pacific nations through green energy initiatives. Under this project, solar power has been installed in 12 public buildings, while 74 local technicians received training. The initiative has benefited more than 16,500 people and is expected to reduce 9,600 tons of carbon dioxide emissions over 25 years. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) praised India's support for clean energy efforts, citing the installation of an 18.25 kW solar system at Fiji's State House, which now produces 20,000 units of clean electricity annually. UNOSSC further highlighted projects in Haiti that provide solar-powered water systems benefiting 40,000 people. These initiatives, supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and the IBSA Fund, underline India's leading role in fostering sustainability and innovation through South-South cooperation.

Rajasthan to host statewide iconic Ghoomar Fest on Nov 19

JAIPUR

Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism and Arts & Culture Minister Diya Kumari has announced that the Ghoomar Festival 2025 will be held for the first time across all seven divisional headquarters — Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Ajmer, Udaipur, Kota, and Bharatpur — on November 19. The main state-level event will take place at the football ground of Vidyadhar Nagar Stadium in Jaipur.

Chairing a review meeting at Rajasthan Tourism Bhawan on Wednesday, Diya Kumari said the Ghoomar dance reflects Rajasthan's rich heritage and feminine grace. "Ghoomar is not just a dance but the cultural identity of Rajasthan," she said, adding that the festival will promote traditional art and culture globally. She invited school and college students, homemakers, professional dancers, and working women to participate and showcase their pride in Rajasthani culture. People are encouraged to attend wearing traditional attire to make the event vibrant and colourful. Participation is free, and registrations can be made on ghoomar.rajasthan.gov.in.

Free Ghoomar workshops are being organised in all seven cities. In Jaipur, a six-day session is underway at Jawahar Kala Kendra from November 11 to 16. Officials said a specially composed soundtrack will unite performances statewide.

At the Jaipur event, live music will accompany the dance directed by Jyoti Tomar of Gangaur Ghoomar Dance Academy. Diya Kumari said the festival celebrates Rajasthan's culture, women's empowerment, and timeless artistic beauty.

Afghan bans Pak medicine, seeks new routes

NEW DELHI

Afghanistan has directed its traders to stop importing medicines from Pakistan within three months, accusing Islamabad of exporting low-quality pharmaceutical products.

The Taliban administration has urged the business community to find alternative trade routes to reduce dependency on Pakistan.

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar said the government would not support traders continuing business with Pakistan after the notice period.

He described the influx of substandard Pakistani medicines as a key problem for the country's health sector.

"Our importers must find other supply routes immediately," Baradar said, warning that those tied to Pakistani contracts should settle their accounts and end operations within three months. He also highlighted the need for national trade protection and sustainability.

Trade routes between Afghanistan and Pakistan have remained closed for nearly a month, leading to severe market disruptions and price fluctuations in both countries.

Reports suggest that while tomato prices have soared in Pakistan, Afghan markets are witnessing steep drops in the prices of grapes, pomegranates, and onions.

Baradar urged Afghan traders to expand links with other regional countries, asserting that Afghanistan already has access to alternative routes and that its economic ties have grown stronger than before.

He criticised Pakistan for using trade and refugee issues as tools of political pressure, calling for firm guarantees that trade routes will not be shut again.

The border, known as the Durand Line, has long been a flashpoint between the two nations, with recurring skirmishes despite attempts at maintaining peace.

AI Express flight lands safely after bomb threat midair

NEW DELHI

An Air India Express flight from Mumbai to Varanasi landed safely on Wednesday after receiving a bomb threat midair, triggering an immediate security alert, officials confirmed.

The incident led to a high alert at Varanasi's Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, where authorities swiftly implemented emergency safety measures.

The airline followed standard security protocols soon after the threat was reported. "One of our flights to Varanasi received a security threat. The airport was immediately alerted, and all necessary security procedures were promptly initiated," the spokesperson said.

The flight landed safely, and all passengers were deboarded without any untoward incident. "The aircraft will resume operations once all required security checks are completed," the airline added.

Meanwhile, sources revealed that in a separate case, low-cost airline IndiGo received digital security alerts targeting five major airports — Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Thiruvananthapuram. Authorities are verifying the authenticity of these alerts and tracing their origin. Aviation and security agencies have increased surveillance and deployed additional security personnel at major airports across the country as a precautionary step. The recent string of security concerns comes shortly after a technical glitch at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport disrupted flight operations last week, affecting over 400 flights from multiple airlines, including Air India and IndiGo.

Officials said that while both incidents appear unrelated, the government has instructed all airlines and airport authorities to stay on high alert and ensure the strict implementation of safety protocols to protect passengers and maintain uninterrupted air services.

QUANTUM BREAKTHROUGH

IIT-BOMBAY DEVELOPS INDIA'S FIRST QUANTUM MICROSCOPE

NEW DELHI

India has achieved a major milestone in quantum technology with the development of its first indigenous Quantum Diamond Microscope (QDM) by a team at IIT Bombay under the National Quantum Mission (NQM). The new microscope will help in advanced research in neuroscience, materials science, and semiconductor technology, the government said on Wednesday.

Announced at the Emerging Science Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC 2025), the QDM can map magnetic fields in three-dimensional layers within encapsulated semiconductor chips.

The project has also earned India its first patent in quantum diamond microscopy.

Developed by the P-P-P-Quest Group at IIT Bombay, the QDM works on nitrogen-vacancy (NV) centres in diamonds. These NV centres are atomic-scale defects that maintain strong quantum properties even at room temperature, allowing them to detect minute magnetic, electric, and thermal changes.

According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, the QDM enables high-resolution, non-destructive magnetic mapping of integrated circuits, batteries, and microelectronic devices.

Its spin-dependent fluorescence, captured through optically detected magnetic resonance (ODMR), allows researchers to visualise magnetic activity much like using an optical microscope.

The IIT Bombay team plans to further enhance this innovation by integrating AI and machine learning-based imaging, which could revolutionise chip diagnostics, biological imaging, and geological studies.

QUICK READ

Israel reopens Zikim crossing for Gaza aid

Gaza

Israel reopened the Zikim Crossing in northern Gaza on Wednesday to allow humanitarian aid trucks into the region, the military's COGAT unit said. The crossing had been closed since September 12, halting supply deliveries, while some aid was only entering from southern Gaza. U.N. agencies had urged its reopening to relieve famine conditions in northern Gaza City and surrounding areas after last month's Israel-Hamas ceasefire. COGAT said the opening follows a political directive, and aid will be transferred by the U.N. and international groups after strict security checks by the Ministry of Defense's Land Crossings Authority.

Ex-first lady of S.Korea seeks bail citing poor health

Seoul

Lawyers for former South Korean first lady Kim Keon Hee requested bail on Wednesday, citing serious health issues, including anxiety and dizziness, while in prison. Kim, arrested in August, faces charges of stock manipulation, election interference, and accepting bribes linked to the Unification Church. Her lawyers said she lost consciousness multiple times and can comply with strict bail conditions. Prosecutors opposed, citing risk of evidence tampering. Kim admitted receiving two Chanel bags from a shaman but denied any collusion or exchanging favors. She did not speak during the hearing, only listening with her head bowed, according to court reports.

G7 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEET

G7 attendance lifts India's role as key voice of Global South

EAM lauds Moe's positive approach toward strengthening India-Canada relations

ONTARIO

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar engaged in a series of bilateral meetings with global leaders during the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Niagara, Canada.

The two-day event, hosted under the Canadian presidency, brought together ministers from G7 nations and invited partners, including India, Brazil, Australia, and South Korea.

Jaishankar met Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan, to explore deeper cooperation in energy, food, and fertilizer sectors. He described their discussion as warm and constructive, appreciating Moe's positive approach toward strengthening India-Canada provincial relations.

He also held talks with Mexican Foreign Minister Juan Ramón de la Fuente, focusing on enhancing collaboration in business, trade, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and science and technology. "A pleasure to meet FM Dr. Juan Ramón de la Fuente of Mexico," Jaishankar shared on X, noting progress toward expanding bilateral cooperation.

The minister also interacted with South African Foreign Minister Ronald Lamola, describing the meeting as a pleasant exchange on mutual cooperation and global developments.

India's participation in the G7 gathering underscores its growing role as a key voice of the Global South in addressing international challenges. Discussions at the forum centered on global security, energy cooperation, economic resilience, and strengthening ties in the Indo-Pacific region.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Jaishankar's presence highlighted India's "continued commitment" to work with international partners for peace and development. He is expected to hold further meetings with counterparts from other participating countries before the conclusion of the ministerial sessions later today.

'Wants war to end but peace talks with Britain is stalled'

MOSCOW

'Contact did take place, Britain showed little interest in hearing Russia's view on the ongoing Ukraine conflict'

Efforts to open dialogue between Russia and Britain have stalled, the Kremlin said on Wednesday. The talks involved Britain's national security adviser, Jonathan Powell, and Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov. However, the conversation did not progress as hoped.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov explained that while contact did take place, Britain showed little interest in hearing Russia's view on the ongoing Ukraine conflict. "There were indeed contacts. A dialogue took place, but it did not continue," Peskov said, without providing the exact timing of the meeting.

According to Peskov, the British side focused mainly on European concerns rather than listening to Russia's perspective. "During this contact, there was an acute desire of the interlocutor to talk about the position of the Europeans and a lack of any intention or desire to listen to our position," he added.

The move by Powell was reported earlier by the Financial Times, which noted that Britain had tried to establish a back channel to Moscow. The attempt came amid worries that the Trump administration in the United States might prioritize its own approach to Ukraine, potentially sidelining British and European interests.

Peskov emphasized that due to the inability to exchange views meaningfully, the talks failed to develop into an ongoing dialogue. The Kremlin's statement highlights continued tension and communication challenges between Russia and Western nations over the conflict in Ukraine.

Felipe's visit is the first Spanish monarch state trip to China in 18 years, aiming to attract Chinese investment amid US pressure on Spain's NATO spending

Xi pitches closer ties to Spanish amid US strains

BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Spain's King Felipe VI met in Beijing on Wednesday to strengthen economic and diplomatic relations between their nations, as both sides look to balance political tensions and boost trade.

Felipe's visit marks the first state trip by a Spanish monarch to China in 18 years. The meeting comes as Spain, under pressure from the U.S. to raise its NATO spending, seeks fresh Chinese investment to support its economy and expand influence across Asia and beyond.

Xi called for a "comprehensive strategic partnership" between the two countries, emphasizing cooperation that would be "steady, dynamic, and globally influential." He also proposed that Chinese and Spanish companies explore new opportunities together in Latin America, where Spain has deep cultural and economic ties.

Ten cooperation agreements were signed during the visit, covering food safety, education, and space research. Xi said both nations could act as "constructive forces for peace and development."

Spain's growing engagement with China, however, faces skepticism within the European Union, which remains cautious over Beijing's ties with Russia and its industrial policies. Still, Felipe said a "relationship of trust" had developed, praising the long-standing friendship between the two nations.

Trade tensions have lingered since China imposed high tariffs on EU pork after the bloc taxed Chinese electric vehicles. Spain, one of Europe's largest pork exporters, abstained from the EU's tariff vote and has since urged for smoother trade relations.

Recently, Beijing proposed resuming investment talks with Spain, frozen since 2021, signaling a new chapter of diplomatic and economic cooperation between the two partners.

Financial fraud: Gabon leader's family gets 20-year jail

LIBREVILLE

The wife and son of Gabon's ousted president have been sentenced to 20 years in prison in absentia for financial crimes, officials said on Wednesday.

Sylvia Bongo (62) and Noureddin Bongo (33) were convicted of embezzlement and money laundering, charges they strongly deny.

The verdict marks another blow to a family that ruled Gabon for over half a century. Sylvia and Noureddin were detained soon after the 2023 coup that removed Ali Bongo from power. The former president had led the oil-rich nation since 2009, following the long rule of his father, Omar Bongo, who was in office for more than 40 years.

After nearly two years in detention, the pair were placed under house arrest in May and later flown to Angola for what officials called "humanitarian reasons." They are now in Britain, where they hold French citizenship and have filed complaints alleging arbitrary detention and torture in Gabon.

Ten others are currently on trial in Libreville on similar charges. Noureddin Bongo called the verdict a "rubber-stamping exercise" orchestrated by President Brice Oligui Nguema.

Indigenous protesters clash at COP30 climate summit

BELEM

Dozens of Indigenous protesters forced their way into the COP30 climate summit venue, clashing with security as they demanded urgent action on forest protection and climate change.

The demonstration disrupted the entrance of the United Nations compound in Belem, where delegates from around the world are attending the annual summit.

Protesters waved flags calling for land rights and carried signs reading, "Our land is not for sale." Nato, an Indigenous leader from the Tupinamba community, told Reuters, "We can't eat money. We want our lands free from agribusiness, oil exploration, illegal miners, and illegal loggers."

Security guards pushed back the crowd, using tables to block the entrance. Some guards were injured during the clashes, including one who was taken away in a wheelchair and another who suffered a cut above the eye from a heavy stick thrown by the protesters. Several sticks were confiscated by security.

The UN said the incident caused minor injuries and minor damage to the venue. Brazilian and UN authorities are investigating.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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	5	8	6		3	9		2
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	1		3		2	6		8
	2	4	9		1	3		5
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	7		8		6	4		9

3	8	6	1	4	2	9	5	7
7	1	5	8	9	3	4	6	2
4	9	2	6	7	5	3	1	8
6	5	4	7	8	1	2	9	3
2	3	8	9	5	6	1	7	4
1	7	9	2	3	4	5	8	6
9	4	3	5	6	7	8	2	1
6	5	1	3	2	8	7	4	9
8	2	7	4	1	9	6	3	5

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

S. Korea unveils blueprint for balanced development

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday has pledged to reform the country's Seoul-focused system to promote balanced regional development. In his first meeting with regional mayors and governors since taking office in June, Lee emphasised that the central and local governments must work as "equal partners" to improve people's livelihoods.

Lee announced plans to enhance local financial autonomy and relocate public institutions outside Seoul. He said more subsidies would be directed toward regions farther from the capital under next year's budget, with local autonomous budgets already tripled from 3.8 trillion won to 10.6 trillion won.

The President acknowledged that while South Korea introduced elections-based local governments 30 years ago, decentralisation remains incomplete. "Local autonomy has been merely symbolic," he said, pledging to accelerate reforms that empower local administrations and boost regional economies.

Lee also addressed concerns about hate speech and disinformation during a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday. He called such behaviour "crimes that must be stamped out" and urged the police to act firmly. "Discrimination and hatred based on race or origin cannot be tolerated," he said. South Korea has recently seen a rise in anti-China demonstrations and social media hostility toward foreign communities. Lee warned that unchecked hate speech and false information threaten democracy and social harmony.

He urged authorities to develop strong mechanisms to counter fabricated information and appealed to political leaders to unite against hate crimes.

Aus-Indonesia agree on new security treaty to tackle security threats

SYDNEY

Australia and Indonesia have agreed to establish a new security treaty aimed at strengthening cooperation and mutual consultation during potential security threats, leaders of both nations announced on Wednesday.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto made the announcement during Prabowo's visit to Sydney, marking a renewed era of regional collaboration. The treaty commits both nations to consult and coordinate responses if either country's security is threatened.

"This agreement is a major extension of our earlier partnerships. If either or both nations face a threat, we will consult and consider appropriate individual or joint measures," Albanese said. He emphasized that peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific could best be achieved through close cooperation between the two neighbours.

This agreement is a major extension of our earlier partnerships. If either or both nations face a threat, we will consult and consider appropriate individual or joint measures.

Anthony Albanese,
Australian Prime Minister

Prabowo echoed these sentiments, saying the treaty reflects both nations' determination to enhance security and maintain strong bilateral relations. "Our goal is to ensure peace, friendship, and mutual protection," he said.

Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong confirmed that the treaty is expected to be formally signed in 2026. It is based on a similar 1995 agreement that was later withdrawn in 1999 following Australia's role in East Timor's independence peacekeeping mission.

Experts say the new agreement highlights political goodwill and strengthens diplomatic trust rather than binding military commitments.

The announcement follows Australia's recent defence pact with Papua New Guinea and reflects Canberra's ongoing efforts to reinforce regional partnerships.

For Indonesia, the move aligns with its non-aligned foreign policy while signaling balanced diplomacy amid global tensions involving major powers like China and Russia.

DEFENCE TIES REINFORCED

India-Vietnam sign submarine rescue pact

HANOI

India and Vietnam reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening defence and shipbuilding cooperation during the 15th India–Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue held in Hanoi. Indian Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh met top Vietnamese officials, including Major General Pham Thanh Khiet, Deputy Director and Chief of Staff of the General Department of Defence Intelligence (GDDI), and Director of Hong Ha Shipyard.

During his visit to the shipyard, Singh highlighted India's growing capabilities under the "Make in India – Make for the World" vision, emphasising collaboration in defence manufacturing and maritime technologies. The Ministry of Defence stated that both nations discussed ways to expand joint projects and improve shipbuilding cooperation for regional security and development.

Earlier, Singh called on Vietnam's Minister of National Defence, General Phan Van Giang, to convey greetings from Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Both sides vowed to deepen defence cooperation across various domains, including industry partnerships, training, and maritime support.

A key outcome of the dialogue was the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement on Mutual Submarine Search and Rescue Support and a Letter of Intent to strengthen defence industry collaboration.

Singh and Vietnam's Deputy Minister of National Defence, Senior Lieutenant General Hoang Xuan Chien, co-chaired the meeting, which also inaugurated the sixth edition of the India–Vietnam Army Exercise VINBAX 2025. The exercise aims to boost interoperability and share best practices for United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Additionally, Singh planted a Bodhi tree at Hanoi's historic Phap Van pagoda, symbolising the deep spiritual and cultural ties between the two nations through Buddhism.

QUICK READ

Money Supply Rises for Sixth Consecutive Month

Seoul

South Korea's money supply kept rising for the sixth month in a row in September, helped by a strong stock market and higher investment inflows, the Bank of Korea said. The country's M2 money supply reached 4,430.5 trillion won (US$3.02 trillion), up 0.7% from August and 8.5% higher than a year earlier. Investment trust funds grew by 5.7 trillion won, and demand deposits jumped by 9.5 trillion won. Officials said the rise reflected end-of-quarter balance adjustments and funds waiting for new investments amid improving economic conditions and easing uncertainties.

Tata Motors shares dip after strong debut

Mumbai

Tata Motors' commercial vehicle arm began trading with a strong start on Wednesday, listing at Rs 335 per share on the NSE, a 28% premium over its discovered price of Rs 260.75. On the BSE, it opened at Rs 330.25, up 26%. However, the stock soon slipped about 3.5%, touching Rs 322.60 on the NSE before settling at Rs 328.65. The listing follows the company's demerger into separate commercial and passenger vehicle units to improve focus and boost shareholder value. The demerger, effective October 1, officially created two independent listed companies under the Tata Motors brand.

UP RERA approves six projects worth ₹864 crore

Lucknow

The Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UP RERA) has approved six new real estate projects with a total investment of □863.94 crore across five districts. The projects will add about 1,470 residential and commercial units in Bareilly, Kanpur Nagar, Noida, Lucknow and Varanasi. According to UP RERA, Bareilly received approval for two projects, while the other districts got one each. The move aims to boost housing and infrastructure development in the state, providing more opportunities for homebuyers and investors in both major cities and growing urban areas.

India, Saudi Arabia strengthen trade and investment ties

Goyal praised growing India-Saudi ties, highlighting $41.88 billion bilateral trade in 2024–25, with chemicals contributing $4.5 billion

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met Saudi Arabia's Investment Minister Khalid Al Falih on Wednesday to discuss new ways of deepening economic and trade relations between the two nations. The talks focused on strengthening cooperation in technology, energy, infrastructure, and startups, reflecting the growing partnership between India and Saudi Arabia. Goyal shared on social media that it was a pleasure to meet Al Falih and his delegation, noting that the relationship between both countries continues to grow "on mutual trust and shared prosperity." Bilateral trade

between India and Saudi Arabia reached $41.88 billion in 2024–25, with chemicals and petrochemicals contributing nearly $4.5 billion, or about 10 per cent of total trade.

Last month, Goyal participated in the 7th Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh, where he met senior Saudi officials including Energy Minister Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Salman Al-Saud and Commerce Minister Majid bin Abdullah AlKassabi. At the summit, Goyal co-chaired a key session with Al Falih titled "From Risk to Opportunity: Strategies for Emerging Economies in the New Industrial Policy Era."

Both ministers later held a bilateral meeting to explore new investment opportunities and promote closer economic collaboration. The discussions aimed at boosting investment flows across sectors to support growth and reinforce the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia remains one of India's most valued economic and strategic partners. The ongoing cooperation under the India–Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council continues to expand, particularly in chemicals and petrochemicals, as both nations work to identify fresh areas for joint investment and innovation.

Finance Minister holds talks with MSME stakeholders

Minister Pankaj Chaudhary and senior Finance and MSME officials discussed small business challenges, policy support, and strategies to enhance growth, innovation, and global competitiveness

NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met with representatives from the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector on Wednesday as part of the ongoing pre-Budget consultations for the Union Budget 2026–27. The meeting, held in New Delhi, marked the third round of discussions aimed at gathering ideas and understanding the concerns of the MSME community.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, along with senior officials from the Finance and MSME Ministries, also took part in the session. The discussions centered around challenges faced by small businesses, policy support, and measures to boost growth, innovation, and global competitiveness. The Finance Ministry shared on social media that Sitharaman chaired the meeting to connect with MSME stakeholders before the upcoming budget. Earlier this week, she also met with leading economists as part of the same consultation process. Pre-Budget consultations are a key step in shaping India's annual budget. These meetings bring together policymakers, industry experts, trade unions, and social groups to ensure that the final document reflects diverse opinions and practical needs. By engaging with multiple sectors, the Finance Ministry hopes to build a balanced and inclusive financial plan. The consultation with MSME representatives forms part of a wider series of discussions that will continue over the next few weeks. The Union Budget 2026–27 is expected to be presented in Parliament on February 1, 2026, following the government's tradition of annual budget announcements.

The report predicts 2.9% global trade growth in 2025–26 but warns protectionism may reduce India's exports to 16% GDP

India's inflation may fall further, rate cut also possible

NEW DELHI

India's inflation for the financial year 2025–26 is likely to average around 2.1 per cent, driven by low food prices and soft demand, according to a report by CareEdge Ratings released on Wednesday.

The agency said that if economic growth slows down in the second half of FY26, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may consider cutting interest rates to support recovery.

CareEdge also maintained its forecast for the Indian rupee at 85–87 against the US dollar by the end of FY26. This projection is based on a softer dollar, a stronger Chi-

nese yuan, and a manageable current account deficit supported by ongoing trade discussions between India and the United States.

The report further predicted that global trade volumes would rise by about 2.9 per cent in 2025–26.

However, it cautioned that risks remain due to protectionism and geopolitical tensions. The IMF's latest estimates suggest India's exports of goods and services may decline to about 16 per cent of GDP by 2030, down from 21 per cent now.

In the first half of FY26, India's non-petroleum exports increased by 7 per cent, while imports grew by 4.5 per cent, mainly from non-petroleum goods.

Exports to the United States rose by 13 per cent, reaffirming the US as India's largest trading partner, accounting for nearly one-fifth of India's total exports.

However, exports of electronic and petroleum goods saw a decline in September.

CNH opens new Pune centre for farmers

NEW DELHI

Agricultural equipment maker CNH has launched a new parts distribution centre near its Pune plant to improve after-sales service across southern and western India.

This is CNH's fourth such facility in the country, joining those in Noida, Indore and Sikanderabad.

The centre will supply parts for Case IH sugarcane harvesters, New Holland combine harvesters and balers. CNH said the site uses advanced Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to boost tracking and efficiency. The move aims to speed up service delivery, support farmers better, and strengthen CNH's growing network across India's key agricultural regions.

Adani Ports adopts global nature disclosure framework

AHMEDABAD

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) has become India's first integrated transport utility to adopt the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework. This move marks a major step toward sustainable and nature-positive infrastructure development in the country.

By joining the TNFD network, APSEZ aligns itself with global port operators that prioritize biodiversity and marine conservation.

The company said it would adopt TNFD-aligned reporting to identify, assess, and disclose nature-related impacts, risks, and opportunities.

The TNFD, backed by organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and Global Canopy, helps businesses integrate nature considerations into financial and strategic decisions. Ashwani Gupta, Whole-Time Director and CEO of APSEZ, said the adoption reflects the company's belief that responsible business practices lead to long-term success.

He added that the TNFD framework strengthens Adani Ports' efforts to include nature-based decision-making and biodiversity conservation in its corporate strategy.

Starting FY26, APSEZ will enhance its environmental disclosures to align fully with TNFD recommendations. The company has already implemented climate risk assessment and global reporting standards.

It has also afforested over 4,200 hectares of mangroves and conserved another 3,000 hectares, making it India's largest private contributor to mangrove restoration.

Operating 15 ports across India's coasts and a fleet of 127 vessels, APSEZ said the new initiative is part of its broader ESG strategy to promote sustainable maritime logistics and nature-positive growth.

India's cement capacity to grow sharply by 2028

MUMBAI

India's cement industry is preparing for a major expansion, with plans to add 160–170 million tonnes (MT) of grinding capacity between financial years 2026 and 2028, according to a new report by Crisil Ratings. This marks a sharp rise from the 95 MT added in the last three years, driven by strong demand, higher capacity use, and optimism in infrastructure and housing growth.

The expansion will involve an estimated capital investment of around ₹1.2 lakh crore — nearly 50 per cent more than the spending in the previous three fiscal years. Most of the new capacity will be funded through internal cash flows, reducing financial risk. Since a majority of the projects are brownfield, execution challenges and costs will remain moderate.

Crisil's analysis of 17 major cement makers, representing 85 per cent of India's total 668 MT capacity, shows stable credit profiles for companies due to strong earnings and manageable leverage levels. Over the next three years, the sector is expected to see incremental demand of 30–40 MT annually.

Although some capacity additions may temporarily lower utilisation rates, Crisil expects usage levels to return to around 70 per cent by FY28. Around 65 per cent of the new capacity will come from brownfield expansions, and two-thirds will be developed as split grinding units.

These smaller, low-cost units offer faster completion times and better access to regional markets, cutting transport costs and improving profitability.

With steady demand and prudent investment, India's cement sector looks set for sustained growth over the next three fiscal years.

India begins probe into Chinese rubber imports

NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), under the Commerce Ministry, has launched an anti-dumping investigation into imports of a type of rubber from China used mainly in the automobile industry. The probe follows a complaint filed by domestic manufacturer Reliance Sibur Elastomers, which claimed that low-priced imports of Halo Isobutene and Isoprene Rubber are harming Indian producers.

In its notification, the DGTR stated that the investigation is based on prima facie evidence showing dumping, injury to the domestic industry, and a clear link between the two. If the investigation confirms that the dumping has caused significant damage, the DGTR may recommend imposing anti-dumping duties on Chinese imports. The final decision on the levy will be taken by the Finance Ministry.

The rubber in question is widely used in manufacturing inner tubes for bicycles, passenger cars, trucks, and agricultural tyres. It also serves as a key material in hoses, seals, tank linings, conveyor belts, protective gear, and sporting goods such as ball bladders.

Anti-dumping probes help protect domestic industries from unfair trade practices by determining whether imported goods are being sold below normal market prices. When proven, duties are imposed under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) framework to ensure fair competition.

Both India and China are members of the WTO, and India has previously imposed several anti-dumping duties to counter cheap imports from multiple countries, including China.

The current investigation underscores New Delhi's continued efforts to safeguard local industries against unfair pricing and maintain a balanced trade environment.

INTRADAY ORDERS SURGE

SEBI crackdown targets stock tip providers

MUMBAI

Most enforcement actions by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in the investment advisory sector have been directed toward stock tipsters and speculative trading call providers rather than genuine long-term investment advisers, a new report revealed on Wednesday.

According to data compiled by the Association of Registered Investment Advisers (ARIA), since the SEBI (Investment Advisers) Regulations were introduced in 2013, the regulator has issued

218 enforcement orders. Of these, 67 per cent—or 147 orders—were against unregistered entities, all of whom were involved in short-term trading calls and stock tips. Among the 71 orders issued against registered entities, 92 per cent targeted those offering intraday or derivative trading services.

Only six orders, less than 3 per cent of total actions since 2013, were issued against registered investment advisers. ARIA noted that these cases involved procedural lapses such as incomplete documentation or Know Your Customer (KYC) gaps, with no instance of investor loss or fund misuse.

The trend continued in FY 2024–25, when SEBI passed 50 enforcement orders. Around 62 per cent were against unregistered firms, while 30 per cent involved registered trading call providers. The city of Indore emerged as a hotspot, accounting for 13 of the 50 actions taken during the year.

ARIA Chairperson Renu Maheshwari said the findings indicate SEBI's enforcement focus has primarily been on speculative trading services. She added that with such providers now ineligible for registration, SEBI's next step should be to support credible, fiduciary advisers and streamline compliance for genuine advisory services.

ICRA lifts credit growth outlook for FY26

NEW DELHI

Rating agency ICRA has raised its projection for India's credit growth in the financial year 2025–26, citing stronger demand and improved liquidity following recent economic measures. The agency now expects total credit offtake to reach between ₹19.5 trillion and ₹21 trillion, up from its earlier forecast of ₹19 trillion to ₹20.5 trillion. According to ICRA, the upward revision reflects the positive impact of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rationalisation and liquidity support through cash reserve ratio (CRR) cuts by the Reserve Bank of India. The agency said retail and MSME segments would remain the main drivers of growth, even as lending to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and corporates stays cautious. ICRA Vice President and Sector Head Sachin Sachdeva said banks recorded ₹10.1 trillion in incremental credit during the first half of FY26, supported by early festive demand and GST reductions. However, credit expansion in the second half is expected to be steady, growing around nine per cent over the same period last year. On asset quality, ICRA observed a mild rise in new non-performing advances (NPAs) among private banks in the first quarter due to unsecured retail and MSME lending, though the trend eased in the second quarter. The gross NPA ratio for FY26 is projected to stay within 2.1–2.3 per cent, indicating overall financial stability. The agency's outlook for banks remains stable, with no major capital needs expected. Both public and private sector banks are likely to maintain sound solvency, despite a slight increase in credit costs in the latter half of the fiscal year.

Pran Suvarna turns director with Rukmini Radhakrishna

After spending 14 years in the film industry as an associate director and writer, Pran Suvarna is now stepping into direction with his debut movie Rukmini Radhakrishna. The film, also known as Majestic-2, is all set for release soon.

The movie stars Bharat Kumar in the lead role, while Mokshita Pai and Riya Sachdev play the heroines. The muhurat ceremony of the film was recently held at the Sri Mahalakshmi Temple, Kumarakrupa. The first clap was given by Film Chamber President R. Narasimhulu, and producer R. Hanumantharaju switched on the camera to mark the beginning of the project. Rukmini Radhakrishna is a modern retelling of the eternal love story of Lord Krishna, Radha, and Rukmini. The romantic drama unfolds as a contemporary love triangle between the main characters, bringing ancient emotions into a present-day setting. The movie will be shot over 60 days, with the first schedule in Bengaluru and the second in Kumbakonam. Presented by Shilpa Srinivas, the film is produced by N. Hanumantharaju and N.H. Umesh Chand, who earlier produced Pen Drive.

The film includes six melodious songs composed by Sunada Gowtham. Pran Suvarna has also written the story and screenplay. The technical team features Sunil Narasimhmoorthy as cinematographer, M. Lakshman Rao as editor, and Mahesh Ram as associate director. The team hopes to bring a heartfelt love story to the big screen soon.

'Thithi' fame actor GADAPPA dies at 89

Veteran village actor Gadappa, who became a household name after his remarkable performance in the award-winning Kannada film Thithi, passed away due to illness. He was 89.

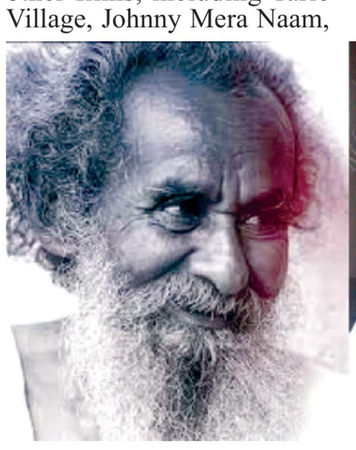
Born as Channegowda in Nodekoppalu village of Mandya district, Gadappa was suffering from asthma and heart-related ailments. Gadappa's performance in Thithi earned him immense recognition both in India and abroad. His portrayal of the carefree, philosophical old man was loved by audiences and critics alike, making him an overnight star in his late 80s. After the success of Thithi, Gadappa went on to act in nearly ten other films, including Tarle Village, Johnny Mera Naam, and Halli Panchayathi. Each role reflected his natural acting style and connection to rural life.

Born and raised in poverty, Gadappa's life took a positive turn after his film debut.

The income from his acting career helped him provide for his family and live comfortably in his later years. His family, friends, and fans are deeply saddened by his passing.

Gadappa's final rites were held in his native village, Nodekoppalu.

Though he is no longer with us, his unforgettable performance in Thithi and his inspiring journey from a simple villager to a celebrated actor will continue to live in people's hearts.



Srujan Lokesh makes directorial debut with 'GST'

Popular Kannada actor and producer Srujan Lokesh has turned director with his upcoming film GST, produced by Sandesh N under the banner of Sandesh Productions and presented by veteran producer Sandesh Nagaraj. The trailer of the film was released recently, and GST is set to hit theaters on November 28.

Real Star Upendra unveiled the trailer, while Priyanka Upendra released a song promo to be launched on November 14. The event was attended by Upendra, Priyanka, and senior actress Tara Anuradha, who extended their best wishes to the team.

Explaining the title, Srujan said, GST stands for Ghost in Trouble, but now we call it Go See in Theater. He described the movie as his dream project made possible by producer Sandesh and revealed that it marks his debut as a director.

Srujan highlighted a rare family connection, noting that his grandfather Subbaiya Naidu introduced his father Lokesh as a child actor, and his father later directed Bujangayyana Dashavatara, where Srujan appeared as a child. Now, his son Sukruth debuts in GST, making it the first Kannada film to feature three generations from the same family.

Describing GST as a horror-comedy filled with humor, Srujan said it focuses on entertainment rather than fear. He also launched his own label, Lokesh Music, for the film's soundtrack.

Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar even sent his wishes and a signed bat to Srujan for his directorial debut.

Netizens allege bot use for Thalapathy Vijay's 'Jana Nayagan' song

Thalapathy Vijay's upcoming film 'Jana Nayagan' has sparked a social media storm after its first single, 'Thalapathy Katcheri', witnessed a sudden surge in YouTube views. Netizens alleged that bots were used to inflate the song's numbers, prompting YouTube to issue an official clarification.

Initially, the song garnered 12 million views on its first day and 15 million within two days. Some users mocked the modest numbers, questioning Vijay's star power with comments like Is this Ghilli Power? However, a sharp spike of over 3 million views within a few hours led to suspicions of artificial boosting, with the hashtag ThalapathyBots trending across social media platforms.

Addressing the controversy, YouTube explained that temporary slowdowns or freezes in view counts occur as part of its verification process. The company stated, We have systems in place to verify if engagement metrics—likes, views, or subscriptions—are from legitimate human sources. View counts can slow or freeze while we confirm their authenticity.

Despite the controversy, 'Thalapathy Katcheri' has now crossed 33 million views and continues to trend online.

The song's success has intensified excitement for 'Jana Nayagan', touted as Thalapathy Vijay's final film before stepping away from cinema.

Directed by [Director's Name if known], 'Jana Nayagan' is slated for release on January 9, ahead of the Pongal 2026 festival.

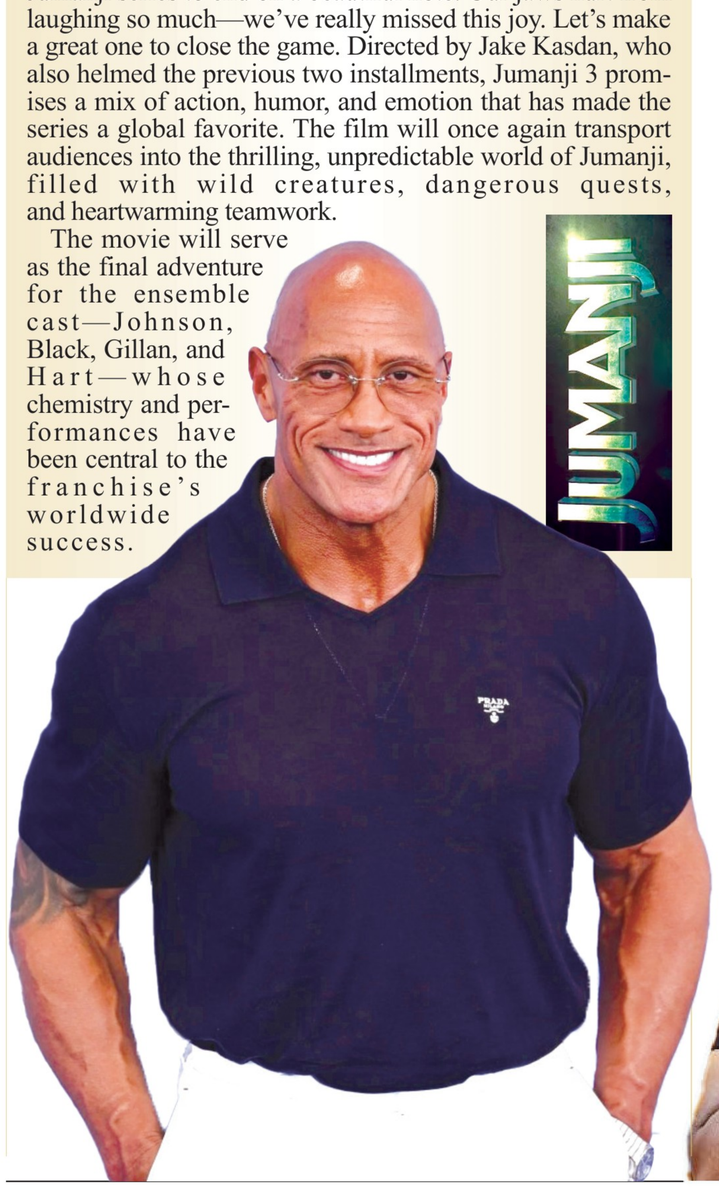
Fans and industry insiders alike are eagerly waiting to see if the film can set new box office benchmarks during its festive release.

Dwayne Johnson begins filming Jumanji 3

The game is back for one final round! Global superstar Dwayne The Rock Johnson has officially confirmed that production for Jumanji 3—the final chapter of the hit adventure franchise—has begun. The much-anticipated film is set for a grand release during Christmas 2026.

Johnson shared the news on social media, posting a behind-the-scenes photo with co-stars Jack Black, Karen Gillan, and Kevin Hart during the cast's table read in Los Angeles, where filming is also taking place. In his post, he wrote, What a massive, fun, heartfelt adventure. It feels right for our beloved Jumanji series to end on a beautiful note. Our jaws hurt from laughing so much—we've really missed this joy. Let's make a great one to close the game. Directed by Jake Kasdan, who also helmed the previous two installments, Jumanji 3 promises a mix of action, humor, and emotion that has made the series a global favorite. The film will once again transport audiences into the thrilling, unpredictable world of Jumanji, filled with wild creatures, dangerous quests, and heartwarming teamwork.

The movie will serve as the final adventure for the ensemble cast—Johnson, Black, Gillan, and Hart—whose chemistry and performances have been central to the franchise's worldwide success.



Vijay Deverakonda, Prakash Raj questioned by Telangana CID

Telugu actors Vijay Deverakonda and Prakash Raj appeared before the Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) on Tuesday for questioning in connection with an ongoing probe into the alleged promotion of online betting applications.

The CID's Special Investigation Team (SIT) interrogated both actors about their involvement in promotional activities for betting platforms and the financial transactions linked to those endorsements.

The questioning, which began around 3 p.m., followed fresh summons issued by the agency earlier this week.

A senior CID official, confirmed that the actors were questioned in relation to a separate case currently under active investigation.

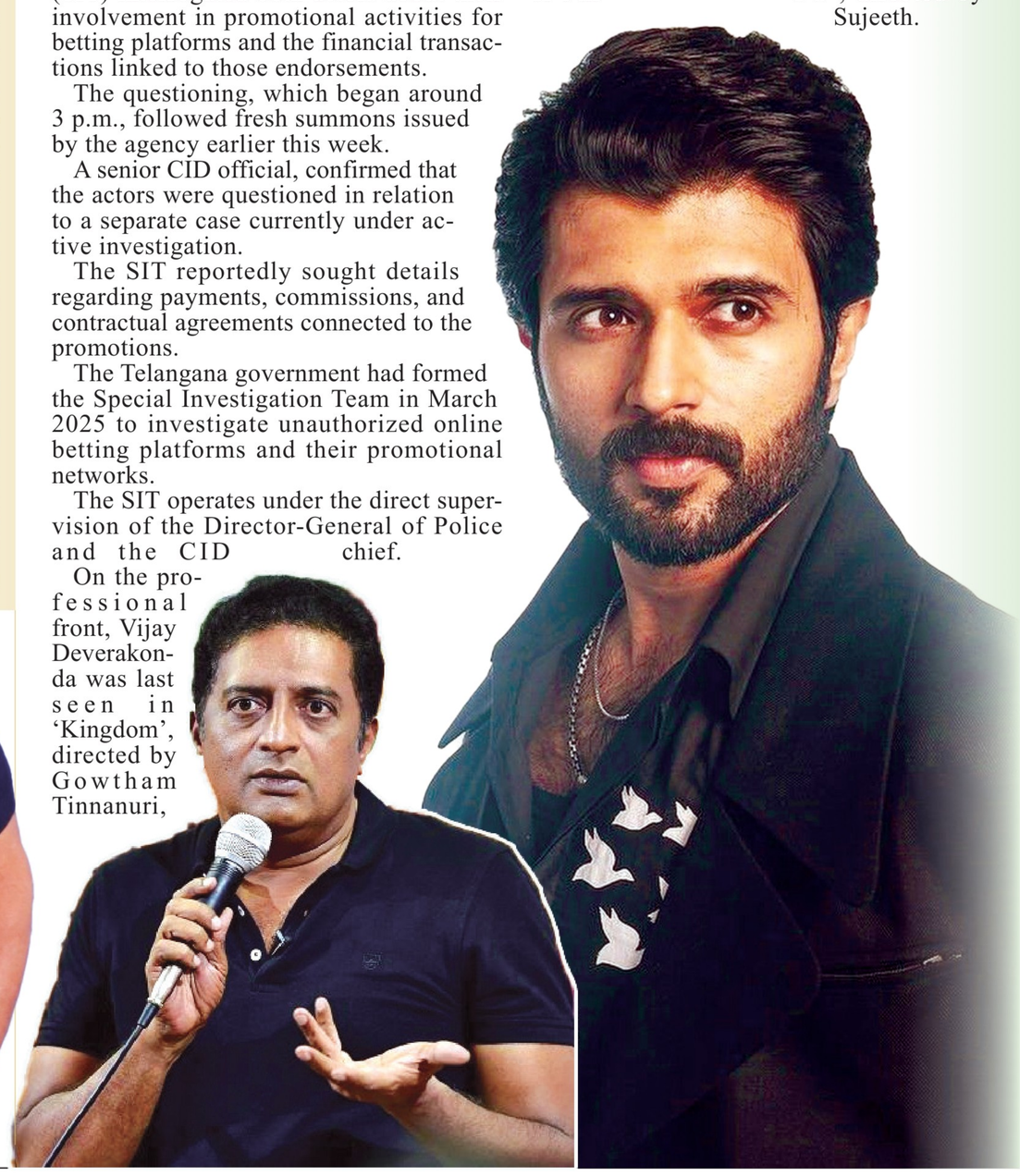
The SIT reportedly sought details regarding payments, commissions, and contractual agreements connected to the promotions.

The Telangana government had formed the Special Investigation Team in March 2025 to investigate unauthorized online betting platforms and their promotional networks.

The SIT operates under the direct supervision of the Director-General of Police and the CID chief.

On the professional front, Vijay Deverakonda was last seen in 'Kingdom', directed by Gowtham Tinnanuri, alongside Bhagyashri Borse and Satyadev. He is currently filming 'Rowdy Janardhana' with Keerthy Suresh, directed by Ravi Kiran Kola, and is also slated to collaborate with Rahul Sankrityayan for his next project, tentatively titled 'VD14'.

Veteran actor Prakash Raj, meanwhile, was last seen in Pawan Kalyan's 'They Call Him OG', directed by Sujeeth.



'Khajuraho Dreams' to release on Dec 5

The much-awaited Malayalam film 'Khajuraho Dreams', featuring Arjun Ashokan, Sharaf U Dheen, Sreenath Bhasi, and Chandhunadh in key roles, is all set to hit theatres on December 5. Announced in 2023, the film promises a humorous and heartwarming road trip filled with friendship, fun, and self-discovery.

The makers revealed the release date along with a colorful new poster featuring the lead cast, captioned, Sending our heartfelt wishes to the entire team of Khajuraho-Dreams. In cinemas this December 5th.

Directed by debutant Manoj Vasudev and written by Sethu, 'Khajuraho Dreams' follows a group of friends who embark on a spontaneous road trip from Kerala to the historic Khajuraho temples in Madhya Pradesh. Their journey through Wayanad, Mysuru, Hubballi, and Nashik turns into a string of hilarious adventures and unexpected experiences.

The film boasts a talented ensemble including Aditi Ravi, Dhruvan, Raj Arjun, Johnny Antony, Sohan Seenulal, and Sadiq. Gopi Sundar has composed the music, featuring four original tracks that blend emotion and energy.

Rubiales Claims 'Far-Left' Smear After Assault Conviction

MADRID

Former Spanish football federation (RFEF) president Luis Rubiales, convicted of sexual assault for forcibly kissing footballer Jenni Hermoso, claimed that he was a victim of a "far-left conspiracy." Rubiales was fined €10,800 ($12,500) for kissing Hermoso without consent during the medal ceremony following Spain's 2023 Women's World Cup victory in Sydney.

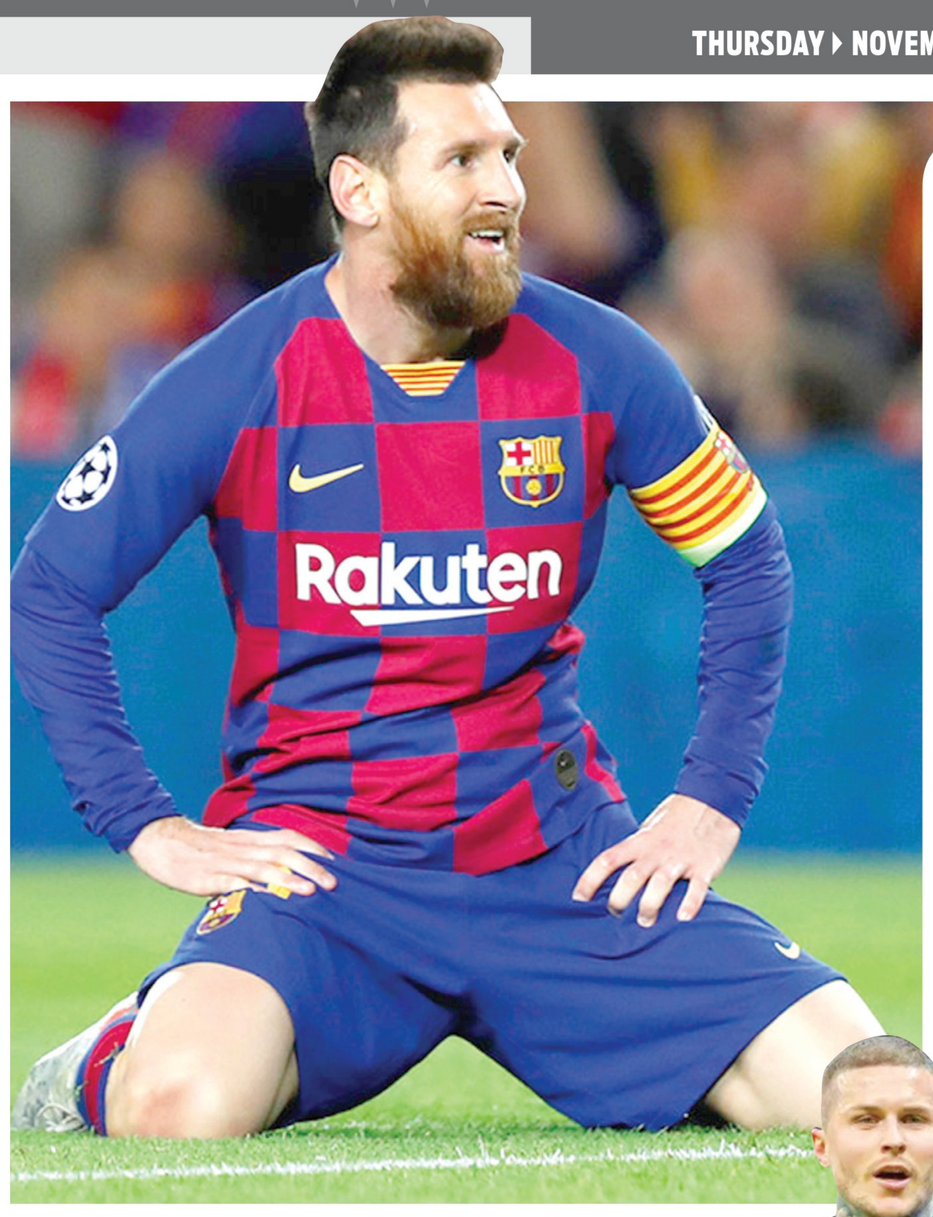
Rubiales insisted the kiss was consensual. "As president, I should have behaved more coolly, more institutionally. But no, I do not apologise to Jenni Hermoso because I asked her if I could kiss her, and she said 'okay,'" he said.

The 48-year-old said he plans to appeal the conviction before Spain's Supreme Court, alleging he was targeted by "a sudden far-left movement" that created a "parallel reality." Rubiales argued that the outrage over his actions was used as "a smokescreen" to shield Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez from criticism.

Rubiales, who resigned under international pressure, has also written a book titled Killing Rubiales, describing what he calls his "public assassination."

Spain's updated penal code categorises any non-consensual kiss as sexual assault, expanding legal protections against all forms of sexual violence. The scandal forced Rubiales out of office and resulted in a three-year ban from football-related activities. The controversy turned Hermoso, Spain's all-time top scorer, into a symbol of resistance against sexism and abuse in sport.

Meanwhile, Rubiales remains under investigation for alleged financial irregularities worth millions of euros tied to the Spanish Super Cup's relocation to Saudi Arabia — a deal involving a company owned by former Barcelona defender Gerard Piqué. Rubiales denied wrongdoing, stating, "I've never taken commissions; on the contrary, I've stopped them from happening."



Messi's Barcelona Return 'Unrealistic,' Says Club President Joan Laporta

Laporta rules out Messi's comeback but plans grand tribute at renovated Camp Nou

BARCELONA

Barcelona president Joan Laporta has ruled out the possibility of Lionel Messi returning to the club as a player, calling such speculation "unrealistic." The remarks come after Messi made a surprise visit to the Camp Nou on Sunday, expressing his wish to "return one day, not just to say goodbye."

Messi, 38, left Barcelona in 2021 after two decades due to the club's severe financial crisis, which prevented them from renewing his contract. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner went on to play for Paris Saint-Germain before joining Inter Miami in Major League Soccer.

"Out of respect for Messi and the professionals at Barça, I believe making unrealistic speculations isn't appropriate," Laporta said. The president, who oversaw Messi's departure, said he had no regrets, stressing that "Barça is above everything."

However, Laporta confirmed plans for a tribute match in honour of Messi once the renovated Camp Nou reopens. "Things didn't end the way we would have liked. If this tribute can make up for that, it would be a good thing," he said. "He deserves the best farewell in the world, in front of 105,000 fans."

Laporta also revealed that Messi's recent visit to the stadium was a spontaneous act of affection for the club. "It was a gesture of love toward Barça. There was no prior arrangement," he noted.

After a historic road victory, Indiana seeks focus ahead of Wisconsin clash

Indiana Faces Challenge of Refocusing After Emotional Win at Penn State

BLOOMINGTON

Indiana is determined to move past the emotional high of its historic 27-24 win over Penn State as it prepares to face Wisconsin this weekend. The thrilling victory, sealed by Omar Cooper Jr.'s spectacular toe-tap touchdown, marked Indiana's first-ever road win against the powerhouse Nittany Lions and one of the defining moments in Hoosiers football history.

Head coach Curt Cignetti admitted he was moved by the win but stressed the importance of staying grounded. "I did get a little choked up because I was so proud of our guys," he said. "Now, we've got to turn the page. Wisconsin's next."

Indiana's rise under Cignetti has been remarkable. After years of mediocrity, the Hoosiers emerged as a national contender last season, recording landmark victories over Michigan and Purdue while earning their first College Football Playoff berth. Though losses to Ohio State and Notre Dame ended their title run, those setbacks became motivation for this year's campaign.

Quarterback Fernando Mendoza, who has been instrumental in Indiana's unbeaten start, reflected on the team's resilience through key wins over Illinois, Iowa, Oregon, and most recently Penn State. "This is the best moment of my career," he said. "But we know the mission isn't over."

Scotland striker hopes to secure World Cup berth after missing Euro 2024 through injury.

Lyndon Dykes Eyes 'Career Pinnacle' to Ease Euro Heartbreak

PIRAEUS

Lyndon Dykes says helping Scotland reach their first World Cup in nearly three decades would ease the pain of missing Euro 2024 through injury. Steve Clarke's side can seal qualification if they draw against Greece on Saturday and beat Denmark at Hampden Park three days later.

WC QUALIFIERS

The Birmingham City striker was ruled out of last year's European Championship after picking up an injury in the pre-tournament training camp. "Missing the Euros was a big blow," Dykes said. "I want to play as many games and tournaments for Scotland as possible. Hopefully, I can play my part in helping us reach the World Cup."

Scotland last featured at a World Cup in 1998, before several current squad members were even born. For Dykes, 30, playing on football's biggest stage would be a dream realised. "To play in a World Cup — I never thought I'd get the chance," he said. "It's the pinnacle of your career, something every player dreams of."

Dykes praised the team's collective spirit, which he believes has been key to their recent success. "We've shown over the past few years that, when we're together, we get things done," he said. "There's no real pressure — just focus on doing our job in these last two games."

Scotland are currently level on 10 points with Denmark and have already guaranteed at least a playoff spot. A win in either of their remaining fixtures will confirm their long-awaited return to the WC stage, ending a 27-year absence from the tournament.

Fired Coach Kelly Sues LSU over $54 Million Contract Dispute

BATON ROUGE

Former LSU football coach Brian Kelly has filed a lawsuit against the university, alleging it has refused to honor the full $54 million buyout owed following his dismissal last month. The suit, filed in East Baton Rouge Parish civil court, contends that LSU has shifted its position on the nature of Kelly's termination, now claiming it intends to fire him "for cause" — a move that would drastically reduce his payout.

Kelly's attorneys argue that the university initially informed them he was fired without cause after LSU's 49-25 loss to No. 3 Texas A&M on October 26. However, the lawsuit states LSU representatives only this week introduced the claim that "grounds for termination for cause existed." The university, according to the filing, has yet to specify those grounds.

The 64-year-old coach, who signed a 10-year, $100 million contract in 2021, went 34-14 with LSU and secured three bowl victories. Despite the success, the Tigers failed to reach the College Football Playoff under his tenure.

Kelly's legal team is seeking a declaratory judgment affirming that he was dismissed without cause and is entitled to his full buyout. "LSU never asserted that Coach Kelly engaged in any conduct that would warrant such a termination," the filing states.

Complicating matters, LSU athletic director Scott Woodward resigned shortly after Kelly's firing amid political intervention by Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry, who criticized the contract's cost. The lawsuit further alleges LSU now claims Woodward lacked authority to fire Kelly or negotiate settlement terms. Kelly has rejected LSU's reported settlement offers of $25 million and $30 million but remains open to negotiation, insisting any deal must "make sense financially." LSU officials have declined to comment on the ongoing litigation.

Djokovic Questions 'Lack of Transparency' in Sinner's Doping Suspension

BELGRADE

Novak Djokovic has questioned the handling of Italian star Jannik Sinner's doping suspension, saying the case lacked transparency and consistency. The Serbian legend compared the controversy to his own Covid-19 vaccine saga that led to his deportation from Australia in 2022.

"That cloud will follow him just as the Covid one follows me," Djokovic said, referring to Sinner's two-month ban earlier this year after traces of the banned substance clostebol were found in his system. Sinner's team had claimed the substance entered his body accidentally through a physiotherapist's hand cream.

DJOKOVIC ON SINNER

Djokovic, who has known Sinner since he was a teenager, expressed both sympathy and surprise. "He was always very genuine, quiet, and humble. When this happened, I was shocked, honestly," he said.

However, Djokovic criticised how the case was managed by tennis authorities, noting "a lack of transparency" and "convenience" in the timing of Sinner's suspension, which fell between the Australian and French Opens. "There were so many red flags. The inconsistency between how top and lower-ranked players are treated is very odd," he said.

Despite his concerns, Djokovic insisted he does not believe Sinner intentionally cheated. "I want to believe him. He didn't do it on purpose, but as a player, he is responsible. Those are the rules," Djokovic noted, adding that he empathised with the media scrutiny Sinner has faced.

Sinner, who has since returned to competition, is currently aiming for his second ATP Finals title in Turin, while Djokovic has withdrawn from the tournament citing injury concerns.

Murphy, Cleveland's Vogt Win Manager of the Year Again

CHICAGO

Milwaukee Brewers skipper Pat Murphy and Cleveland Guardians manager Stephen Vogt have each been named Manager of the Year for the second straight season, marking rare back-to-back honors in both leagues. Murphy joins legendary Braves manager Bobby Cox as the only two-time consecutive National League winner, while Vogt becomes the first repeat American League recipient since Kevin Cash in 2021.

Murphy, 67, guided Milwaukee to a franchise-best 97-65 record and a division title. The Brewers surged in the second half of the season with a remarkable 29-4 run, including a 14-game win streak. They eliminated the Chicago Cubs in the Division Series before bowing out to the Dodgers in the NLCS. "We had guys that were aware and hungry, and that makes the manager look good," Murphy said.

ABU DHABI

The Chase Is Over for Rory McIlroy-But He Keeps Running

After completing the career Grand Slam at Augusta, Rory McIlroy has nothing left to prove — yet he keeps finding new reasons to play. Nearing the end of a remarkable year, he's set to claim a seventh Race to Dubai title, one short of Colin Montgomerie's record. "To get one closer to Monty would be amazing," he said. McIlroy admits his desire remains, though no longer driven by pursuit. "I've gotten everything I ever thought I would out of the game," he said. Now, golf is about enjoyment — from winning at Pebble Beach to representing Europe — and perhaps, one day, chasing Olympic gold. The chase may be over, but McIlroy isn't slowing down.

CORAL GABLES

Kai Trump Joins Miami Golf Recruiting Class

Kai Trump, granddaughter of former U.S. President Donald Trump, has officially signed to play golf for the University of Miami. The 17-year-old finalized her commitment during a ceremony at her high school near Mar-a-Lago, though Miami could only confirm the signing on Wednesday — the first day of the NCAA Division I signing period. Kai, daughter of Donald Trump Jr., said she chose Miami for its "great coaches" and proximity to home. Hurricanes coach Janice Olivencia praised Kai's talent and composure, calling her "a strong competitor with great energy." Currently making her LPGA debut at The Annika, Kai's arrival promises to bring both excitement and attention to Miami's women's golf program.

SAO PAULO

Former Chelsea Star Oscar Hospitalized After Cardiac Scare

Former Chelsea and Brazil midfielder Oscar is in stable condition after suffering a cardiac complication during pre-season fitness testing, his club Sao Paulo announced. According to Brazilian media, the 34-year-old collapsed while undergoing tests on an exercise bike and was unconscious for about two minutes before being rushed to hospital. Sao Paulo said Oscar was promptly treated by club and hospital medical staff and remains under observation for further evaluation. Oscar, who rejoined his boyhood club in 2024 after several successful years in China, has a contract with Sao Paulo until 2027. The former Chelsea star won two Premier League titles and a Europa League trophy during his time in England.

Ben Stokes Defends England's Ashes Build-Up

England aims to break 14-year winless streak in Aus starting Nov 21

"Time has to be considered. Some of our players were in New Zealand for the white-ball series. We've done everything possible to prepare the best we can."

—Ben Stokes
England skipper

PERTH

England skipper Ben Stokes has defended his team's limited preparation for the upcoming Ashes series, brushing aside criticism from former players who questioned the absence of traditional warm-up matches before the first Test against Australia in Perth on November 21.

The series marks England's latest bid to end a 14-year winless run in Australia. Stokes and Joe Root—both seasoned campaigners—are yet to win a Test on Australian soil, while no member of the current squad remains from the 2010-11 series triumph.

England's only practice fixture ahead of the five-Test series is a three-day game against the England Lions at Lilac Hill, beginning Thursday. This minimalist approach drew disapproval from Ashes legends Ian Botham, Geoffrey Boycott and Ian Healy, who argued that traditional warm-ups help players adjust to local conditions.

However, Stokes insisted the team's planning has been adequate. "Time has to be considered. Some of our players were in New Zealand for the white-ball series," he said, referring to England's recent 3-0 ODI loss. "We've done everything possible to prepare the best we can." Stokes also pointed to cricket's congested calendar, noting that preparation now differs from "10, 15, 20 years ago."

Meanwhile, Australia faced its own injury concerns as pacers Josh Hazlewood and Sean Abbott underwent scans after leaving a domestic match. Hazlewood was later cleared, while Abbott was sidelined with a hamstring strain. Pat Cummins, recovering from a back injury, expressed confidence in Hazlewood's fitness ahead of the Perth opener, which will be followed by Tests in Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney.

Alcaraz Defeats Fritz, Moves within One Win of Year-End No. 1 Spot

TURIN

Carlos Alcaraz moved to within one victory of securing the year-end world No. 1 ranking after a hard-fought 6-7 (2), 7-5, 6-3 win over Taylor Fritz at the ATP Finals on Tuesday. The Spanish star, who improved to 2-0 in the group stage, can seal the top ranking by winning either his final group match against Lorenzo Musetti or his semifinal clash.

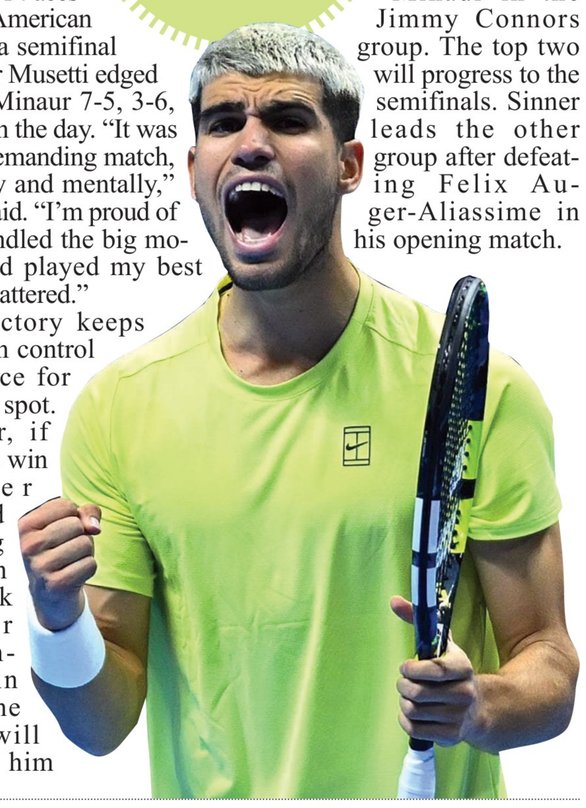
If Jannik Sinner goes unbeaten and Alcaraz loses again, Sinner takes top spot.

Alcaraz, 22, produced 47 winners to Fritz's 38 and overcame 14 aces from the American to clinch a semifinal berth after Musetti edged Alex de Minaur 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 later in the day. "It was a really demanding match, physically and mentally," Alcaraz said. "I'm proud of how I handled the big moments and played my best when it mattered."

The victory keeps Alcaraz in control of the race for the No. 1 spot. However, if he fails to win another match and defending champion Jannik Sinner goes unbeaten in Turin, the Italian will overtake him for the year-end crown.

Fritz, who has battled knee tendinitis throughout the season, admitted that the injury affected his play in the deciding set. "My knee is completely cooked," he said. "I started feeling it toward the end of the first set, but it really limited me in the third. I struggled to bend my leg and push off on my serve."

Musetti, a late replacement for Novak Djokovic—who withdrew due to a shoulder injury—joins Alcaraz, Fritz, and De Minaur in the Jimmy Connors group. The top two will progress to the semifinals. Sinner leads the other group after defeating Felix Auger-Aliassime in his opening match.



Shrivalli Confident Home Crowd Will Boost Chances

BILLIE JEAN KING CUP

BENGALURU

India's Shrivalli Bhamidipaty believes that playing in front of a home crowd will give her and her teammates a crucial edge as they gear up for the Billie Jean King Cup play-off ties against Slovenia and the Netherlands starting Friday in Bengaluru.

Shrivalli, ranked World No. 381, played a key role in India's strong campaign in the Asia Oceania Group 1 stage, where the team won all five of its matches to reach the play-offs. Known for her big serve and aggressive forehand, the 23-year-old will look to maintain that form against higher-ranked opponents in what she describes as the "business end" of the tournament.

"Every match will be tough, but rankings do not matter," Shrivalli said after a practice session at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium on Tuesday. "Most of us in the Indian team — I, Sahaja (Yamalapalli) and others— have beaten higher-ranked players before. It's about staying confident and giving our best."

The play-off stage marks the first time India is hosting the Billie Jean King Cup play-offs, a moment Shrivalli says will energize the team. "The biggest advantage we have is the home crowd. There should be a lot of people coming to cheer and back us," she said. "That gives us so much energy, especially when we are playing for the country. It's a great opportunity for all of us, and we are really excited."

India and South Africa face off in a two-Test series from November 14

Keshav Maharaj Says SA Hungry to End 15-Year Wait in India

KOLKATA

South Africa's seasoned spinner Keshav Maharaj said his team is determined to end their 15-year wait for a Test victory in India, calling the upcoming series one of the toughest assignments on the Proteas' cricket calendar. India and South Africa are set to meet in a two-Test series beginning November 14, with Kolkata and Guwahati hosting the matches.

"There's a real hunger and desire within the camp to beat India in India," Maharaj said during an online media interaction. "It's probably one of the toughest tours, if not the toughest, for any South African side. We see it as a great opportunity to measure how far we've come."

Despite being one of the most competitive Test teams globally, South Africa have failed to win a single match in their last two Indian tours — in 2015 and 2019 — where spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja dominated. Maharaj, however, remains optimistic about his side's adaptability and believes the pitches this time will be more balanced.

"I don't think it will be as spin-friendly as we experienced in Pakistan," he said. "The wickets should be good for batting early on and then gradually deteriorate, offering more of a traditional Test challenge."

Maharaj also noted the changing approach to pitch preparation in India, pointing to the more even surfaces seen during the West Indies series earlier this year. "India are a wonderful team in transition, but we're confident and prepared," he added.

The left-arm spinner said the Proteas will carry momentum from their recent tour of Pakistan, where they fought back to level the series. "There's real precision in how we've gone about our plans," Maharaj said. "We're ready to give everything."

Venkatesh Prasad to Contest for KSCA President's Post

BENGALURU

Former India fast bowler Venkatesh Prasad has officially announced his candidature for the post of president in the upcoming Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) elections, scheduled for November 30. Prasad's campaign has received strong backing from fellow legends Anil Kumble and Javagal Srinath, both of whom were present at the announcement event in Bengaluru.

"We have come together because we believe Karnataka cricket needs to be rebuilt," Prasad said. "Our goal is to restore the pride of the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, develop cricketing infrastructure across the state, and strengthen the pathway for young players."

Prasad will lead the 'Team Game Chargers' panel, which includes Sujith Somasundar (Vice-President), Vinay Mruthyunjaya (Secretary), A.V. Shashidhar (Joint Secretary), and B.N. Madhukar (Treasurer).

FIDE Files Ethics Complaint against Former World Champion Kramnik

NEW DELHI

The International Chess Federation (FIDE) has filed a formal complaint with its Ethics and Disciplinary Commission (EDC) against former world champion Vladimir Kramnik over repeated public allegations of cheating against Grandmasters Daniel Naroditsky and David Navara. FIDE said the complaint outlines a "pattern of conduct" spanning nearly two years, citing multiple public statements that it considers potentially in violation of rules regarding harassment and the insulting of an individual's dignity.

'No Forgiveness for Us, Expected to Perform Like Robots,' Says Rauf

RAWALPINDI

Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf has spoken candidly about the pressure and scrutiny international cricketers face, saying players are often treated like "robots" expected to perform flawlessly every time they step on the field. Rauf made the remarks after leading Pakistan to a narrow six-run victory over Sri Lanka in the first ODI on Tuesday, where he claimed four wickets, including a decisive three-wicket burst.

"There is no forgiveness for us," Rauf said after the match. "We are expected to perform like robots, but we are human beings and can have bad days."

The 31-year-old fast bowler has faced heavy criticism in recent months, particularly after the Asia Cup final against India, where he conceded 50 runs in just 3.4 overs, becoming the most expensive bowler of the match. Reflecting on that performance, Rauf admitted that plans do not always work out in big games. "The main thing is you don't give up. One bad day doesn't define you. We keep working on improving and rectifying our mistakes," he said.

Rauf, who served a two-match suspension earlier this year for making offensive gestures during an Asia Cup fixture, emphasized that fans should not question players' commitment even during failures. "No player likes being criticised. You might have 10 good matches and one bad game, and everyone will remember the bad one," he said.

Expressing his ambition to expand his role for Pakistan, Rauf added that he remains eager to play Test cricket. "I want to play Tests too," he said. "If the selectors give me a chance, I'll be ready — but I just need advance notice so I can prepare properly for red-ball cricket."

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.

Bills Sign Former Chiefs Receiver Mecole Hardman to Practice Squad

The Buffalo Bills have added depth to their receiving corps by signing former Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Mecole Hardman to their practice squad. The 27-year-old speedster, a three-time Super Bowl champion, brings six seasons of NFL experience, including five with Kansas City. Hardman, released from Green Bay's practice squad in September, is best known for his game-winning touchdown catch in the Chiefs' 2023 Super Bowl victory over San Francisco. After productive early seasons with 2,088 receiving yards and 18 touchdowns, his output has declined due to injuries. The Bills, struggling to stretch the field this season, also placed rookie defensive end Landon Jackson on injured reserve.

MUMBAI

Graeme Smith Backs South Africa's Spinners Ahead of India Test Series

Former South Africa captain Graeme Smith expressed confidence in his team's spin duo — Keshav Maharaj and Senuran Muthuswamy — ahead of the Test series against India, which begins at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Friday. Smith said the venue was a good place to start and backed his bowlers to take 20 wickets in the match. Speaking at an SA20 India Day event in Mumbai, Smith jokingly referred to former teammate and current India bowling coach Morne Morkel as "the enemy now." Faf du Plessis, also present at the event, stressed the importance of a strong start in the short two-Test series, lamenting the reduced format.

KABUL

Rashid Khan Confirms Second Marriage amid Ongoing Rumours

Afghanistan cricket captain Rashid Khan has confirmed his second marriage after rumours circulated online claiming he had tied the knot again. Photos of Rashid sitting beside a woman in traditional Afghan attire at a charity event had gone viral, sparking speculation. Clarifying on Instagram, Rashid said he married "a woman who embodies love, peace, and partnership" on August 2, 2025. He added that the viral video was taken at the launch of the Rashid Khan Charity Foundation in the Netherlands. "It's unfortunate to see assumptions being made. She is my wife, and we stand together with nothing to hide," Rashid wrote.

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